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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Basic programme of work of the Council

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 2011 and 2012

Note by the Secretary-General

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* E/2011/2.

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Please recycle

I. Proposed provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2011 of the Council and preliminary list of documents for each agenda item

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2011 (E/2011/100)

Proposed programme of work for the substantive session of 2011 (E/2011/L.__)

Status of documentation for the substantive session of 2011 (E/2011/L.__)

2. High-level segment

A. High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions

Documentation

World Economic and Social Survey, 2011 (General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 52/180 and Council resolution 1983/50)

World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2011 (General Assembly resolution 118 (II) and Council resolution 1990/52)

B. Annual ministerial review on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education"

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education (General Assembly resolution 61/16 and Council decision 2008/258)

C. Thematic discussion on the theme "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education"

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education (General Assembly resolution 61/16 and Council decision 2010/262)

Relevant part of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session, 21-25 March 2011 (E/2011/33) (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1998/46)

Relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/2011/15 and relevant addenda) (Council decision 2004/323)

Operational activities segment

3. Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

(a) Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2009 (General Assembly resolutions 35/81, 59/250, 62/208, 63/232, 63/311 and 64/289)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits (General Assembly resolution 62/208, and Council resolutions 2008/2, 2009/1 and 2010/22)

Report of the Secretary-General on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolutions 62/208, 63/232, 63/311 and 64/289 and Council resolutions 2008/2, 2009/1 and 2010/22)

Report of the Secretary-General on actions taken by the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system (General Assembly resolution 62/208 and Council resolutions 2008/2, 2009/1 and 2010/22)

(b) Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme

Documentation

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its second regular session of 2010 and its first regular and annual sessions of 2011 (E/2011/35) (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (E/2011/5) (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Reports of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its second regular session of 2010 and its first regular and annual sessions of 2011 (E/2011/34 (Part I) and Add.1) (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (E/2011/6) (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

[1] Submitted to the General Assembly through the Council.

Annual report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (General Assembly resolution 64/289)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (General Assembly resolution 64/289)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on its 2010 sessions (E/2011/36) (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for 2010 (E/2011/14) (General Assembly resolutions 50/8 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

(c) South-South cooperation for development

Documentation

Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation on its seventeenth session (General Assembly resolutions 33/134 and 58/220)[1]

Coordination segment

4. The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Documentation

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (Council resolution 2008/29)

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2010/24) (see also under items 6, 8 and 13)

Report of the Secretary-General on recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact (Council resolution 2010/25) (see also under item 6 (a))

Humanitarian affairs segment

5. Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 52/12 B, Council decision 1999/208 and Council resolution 2010/1)

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[2] 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265.

General segment

6. Implementation of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2010/24) (see also under items 4, 8 and 13)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations on the progress in the implementation of the World Food Summit Plan of Action (Council decision 1999/212)

(a) Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on recovering from the crisis: a Global Jobs Pact (Council resolution 2010/25) (see also under item 4)

Summary by the President of the Council of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (General Assembly resolutions 58/230, 62/187 and 65/145 and Council resolution 2010/26)[1]

(b) Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Documentation

Annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (General Assembly resolution 62/203 and Council decision 2001/320)[1]

7. Coordination, programme and other questions

(a) Reports of coordination bodies

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-first session, 6 June-1 July 2011 (A/66/16) (General Assembly resolution 31/93 and Council resolution 2008 (LX))

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2010/2011 (Council decision 2001/321)

(b) Proposed programme budget for the biennium 2012-2013

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the period 2012-2013 (General Assembly resolution 58/269 and Council resolution 1988/77)

(c) International cooperation in the field of informatics

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States (Council resolution 2010/38)

(d) Long-term programme of support for Haiti

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (Council resolution 2010/28)

(e) Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (General Assembly resolution 62/137 and Council resolution 2010/29)

(f) African countries emerging from conflict

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

(g) Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Executive Director of the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) (Council resolution 2009/6)

(h) Calendar of conferences and meetings in the economic, social and related fields

Documentation

Provisional calendar of conferences and meetings for 2012-2013 in the economic, social and related fields (Council decisions 52 (LVII) and 1988/103)

8. Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2010/24) (see also under items 4, 6 and 13)

9. Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (General Assembly resolution 57/147 and Council resolution 2100 (LXIII))[1]

Report of the President of the Council on consultations held with the Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples (Council resolution 2010/30)

Report of the Secretary-General on support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (Council resolution 2010/30)

10. Regional cooperation on the theme (*to be decided*)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (E/2011/15 and addenda) (General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII), and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and decision 1979/1)

The economic situation in the Economic Commission for Europe region: Europe, North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States (E/2011/16) (General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and decision 1979/1)

Overview of the economic and social conditions in Africa (E/2011/17) (General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and decision 1979/1)

Summary of the *Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific* (E/2011/18) (General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and decision 1979/1)

Latin America and the Caribbean: economic situation and outlook (E/2011/19) (General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and decision 1979/1)

Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region (E/2011/20) (General Assembly resolution 1823 (XVII) and Council resolution 1817 (LV) and decision 1979/1)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the reports of the Executive Secretaries of the Economic Commission for Africa and the Economic Commission for Europe on the Europe-Africa fixed link through the Strait of Gibraltar (Council resolution 2009/11)

11. Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan[1] (Council resolution 2010/31)

12. Non-governmental organizations

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2011 regular session, 24 January-2 February 2011 (E/2011/32 (Part I)) (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and Council decisions 1995/304 and 2010/223)

Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2011 session, 16-24 May 2011 (E/2011/32 (Part II)) (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and Council decisions 1995/304 and 2010/223)

13. Economic and environmental questions

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16 (Council resolution 2010/24) (see also items 4, 6 and 8)

(a) Sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting for the nineteenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development, 28 February-4 March 2011 (Council resolution 2003/61)

Report of the second meeting of the open-ended Preparatory Committee of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, 7-8 March 2011 (General Assembly resolution 64/236)

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its nineteenth session, 2-13 May 2011 (E/2011/29, Supplement No. 9) (Council decisions 1993/207 and 2010/234)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its thirteenth session, 21-25 March 2011 (E/2011/33) (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1998/46)

Report of the Secretary-General on the review of United Nations support for small island developing States (Council resolution 2010/34)

Report of the Secretary-General on the 10-year appraisal of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (Council resolution 2010/27)

(b) Science and technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fourteenth session (Geneva, 23-27 May 2011) (E/2011/31) (General Assembly resolutions 46/235 and 56/182 and Council decision 2010/229)

Note by the Secretary-General on the continuation of the Internet Governance Forum (Council resolution 2010/2)

(c) Statistics

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-second session, 22-25 February 2011 (E/2011/24) (Council resolutions 8 (I), 8 (II) and 1566 (L) and Council decision 2010/235)

(d) Human settlements

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on its twenty-second session (Nairobi, 30 March-3 April 2009) (A/64/8) (General Assembly resolutions 32/162 and 56/206 and Council resolution 1978/1)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda (Council decision 2010/236)[1]

(e) Environment

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twenty-sixth session (Nairobi, 21-25 February 2011) (A/66/25) (General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII), 53/242 and 64/204)[1]

(f) Population and development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fourth session, 11-15 April 2011 (E/2011/25) (General Assembly resolution 49/128 and Council decision 2010/238)

(g) Public administration and development

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its tenth session, 4-8 April 2011 (E/2011/44) (Council resolutions 2001/45 and 2003/60 and decision 2010/239)

Report of the Secretary-General on the process towards enhanced cooperation on international public policy issues pertaining to the Internet (Council resolution 2010/2)

(h) International cooperation in tax matters

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its sixth session (Geneva, 18-22 October 2010) (E/2010/45, Supplement No. 25) (Council resolution 2004/69 and Council decision 2010/257)

Report of the Secretary-General on strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (Council resolution 2010/33)

(i) United Nations Forum on Forests

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Forum on Forests on its ninth session, 24 January-4 February 2011 (E/2011/42) (Council resolution 2004/49 and decisions 2009/241 and 2009/242)

(j) Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

(k) Cartography

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-sixth session (Vienna, 2-6 May 2011) (Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) and 1314 (XLIV) and Council decision 2009/269)

Report of the Secretary-General on global geographic information management (Council decision 2010/240)

(l) Women and development

Documentation

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session, 22 February-4 March 2011 (E/2011/27) (General Assembly resolution 42/178 and Council resolution 1987/24)

(m) Transport of dangerous goods

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Committee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods and on the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (Council resolutions 645 G (XXIII) and 2009/19)

14. Social and human rights questions

(a) Advancement of women

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-fifth session, 22 February-4 March 2011 (E/2011/27) (Council resolutions 11 (II), 1987/22 and 1996/6 and Council decision 2010/233)

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcomes of the forty-sixth (12-30 July 2010), forty-seventh (Geneva, 4-22 October 2010) and forty-eighth (Geneva, 17 January-4 February 2011) sessions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

(b) Social development

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-ninth session, 9-18 February 2011 (E/2011/26) (Council resolutions 1139 (XLI) and 1996/7 and Council decision 2010/242)

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond (General Assembly resolution 64/133)

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth (Council decision 2009/244)

(c) Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twentieth session, Vienna, 11-21 April 2011 (E/2011/30, Supplement No. 10) (Council resolution 1992/1 and Council decisions 1993/242 and 2010/243)

(d) Narcotic drugs

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fourth session, Vienna, 15-24 March 2011 (E/2011/28) (Council resolutions 9 (I) and 1991/39 and Council decision 2010/244)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2010 (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances) (E/INCB/2010/1)

(e) United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Documentation

Oral report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 58/153)

(f) Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

(g) Human rights

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-fourth (Geneva, 3-21 May 2010) and forty-fifth (Geneva, 1-19 November 2010) sessions (E/2011/22) (Council resolutions 1988 (LX), 1985/17 and 1995/39 and decision 2010/247)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

Report of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children (General Assembly resolution 62/141, sect. III)[1]

(h) Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Documentation

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its tenth session, 16-27 May 2011 (E/2011/43) (Council resolution 2000/22 and Council decisions 2010/249 and 2010/250)

(i) Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

Documentation

Report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on genetic privacy and non-discrimination (Council decision 2010/259)

15. United Nations research and training institutes

Documentation

Report of the Director of the United Nations System Staff College on the activities of the College (General Assembly resolution 60/214)

Report of the Council of the United Nations University on the work of the University (General Assembly resolution 61/216)

Consolidated report of the Secretary-General and the Executive Director of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/27 (General Assembly resolution 62/210)

II. Questions for inclusion in the programme of work of the Council for 2012 and preliminary list of documents for each agenda item[3]

Substantive session of 2012

Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda for the substantive session of 2012

Status of documentation for the substantive session of 2012

A. High-level segment

High-level policy dialogue with international financial and trade institutions

Documentation

World Economic and Social Survey, 2012 (General Assembly resolutions 118 (II) and 52/180 and Council resolution 1983/50)

World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2012 (General Assembly resolution 118 (II) and Council resolution 1990/52)

[3] The list of questions will be further revised in the light of the Council's deliberations on the proposed programme of work for 2012.

Development Cooperation Forum

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on trends and progress in international development cooperation (General Assembly resolution 61/16, paras. 6 and 7)

Relevant part of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session (Council resolutions 1079 (XXXIX) and 1998/46)

Relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 2004/323)

Annual ministerial review on the theme (to be decided)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the annual ministerial review for 2012 (General Assembly resolution 61/16, para. 10)

Thematic discussion on the theme (to be decided)

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the theme of the thematic discussion (General Assembly resolution 61/16, para. 2 (c))

Relevant part of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 2004/323)

B. Operational activities segment

Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

Report of the High-level Committee on South-South Cooperation (General Assembly resolutions 33/134 and 58/220)[1]

Follow-up to policy recommendations of the General Assembly and the Council

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolutions 62/208, 63/232 and 65/177)

Report of the Secretary-General on analysis of the funding of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2010 (General Assembly resolutions 35/81, 59/250, 62/208, 63/232, 63/311 and 64/289)[1]

Report of the Secretary-General on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (General Assembly resolutions 62/208, 63/232, 63/311 and 64/289 and Council resolutions 2008/2, 2009/1 and 2010/22)

Report of the Secretary-General on actions taken by the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system (General Assembly resolution 62/208)

Reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women and the World Food Programme

Documentation

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Children's Fund (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (General Assembly resolution 64/289)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (General Assembly resolution 64/289)

Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme (General Assembly resolutions 48/162 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

Annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme (General Assembly resolutions 50/8 and 62/208 and Council resolution 1995/51)

C. Coordination segment

The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2011 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the 2011 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (Council resolution 2007/272)

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16[1]

D. Humanitarian affairs segment

Special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

Report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (General Assembly resolution 52/12 B and Council decision 1999/208)

E. General segment

Implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16[1]

Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

Documentation

Summary by the President of the Council of the special high-level meeting of the Economic and Social Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (General Assembly resolution 58/230)[1]

Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Documentation

Annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (General Assembly resolution 61/1 and Council decision 2001/320)[1]

Coordination, programme and other questions

Reports of coordination bodies

Documentation

Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its fifty-second session (General Assembly resolution 31/93 and Council resolution 2008 (LX))

Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2011/2012 (Council decision 2001/321)

Proposed strategic framework for the period 2014-2015

Documentation

Relevant sections of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2014-2015 (General Assembly resolution 58/269)

International cooperation in the field of informatics

Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Long-term programme of support for Haiti

Documentation

Report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (Council resolution 2010/28)

African countries emerging from conflict

Tobacco or health

Implementation of General Assembly resolutions 50/227, 52/12 B, 57/270 B and 60/265

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16[1]

Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people (General Assembly resolution 57/147 and Council resolution 2100 (LXIII))[1]

Regional cooperation

[*Theme(s) to be selected*]

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation (Council decision 1979/1)

Summaries of the surveys of economic conditions in the five regions prepared by the regional commissions (Council resolution 1724 (LIII))

Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan[1]

Non-governmental organizations

Documentation

Reports of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2012 regular session and its resumed 2012 session (Council resolutions 3 (II) and 1996/31 and Council decision 1995/304)

Economic and environmental questions

Documentation

Updated report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions,[2] including resolution 61/16[1]

Sustainable development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its twentieth session (Council decision 1993/207)

Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its fourteenth session (Council resolution 1079 (XXXIX))

Science and technology for development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its fifteenth session (General Assembly resolution 46/235, annex)

Statistics

Documentation

Report of the Statistical Commission on its forty-third session (Council resolutions 1768 (LIV) and 1999/8)

Human settlements

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda[1]

Environment

Documentation

Report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Programme on its twelfth special session (General Assembly resolutions 2997 (XXVII) and 53/242)[1]

Population and development

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-fifth session (General Assembly resolution 49/128 and Council decision 1995/209)

Public administration and development

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its eleventh session (Council resolutions 2001/45 and 2003/60)

International cooperation in tax matters

Documentation

Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its seventh session (Council resolution 2004/69)

Assistance to third States affected by the application of sanctions

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

Cartography

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-seventh session (Council resolutions 715 A (XXVII) and 1314 (XLIV))

Women and development

Documentation

Relevant sections of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-sixth session (General Assembly resolution 42/178 and Council resolution 1987/24)

Social and human rights questions

Advancement of women

Documentation

Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-sixth session (Council resolutions 11 (II) and 1147 (XLI))

Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (article 21 of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women)[1]

Social development

Documentation

Report of the Commission for Social Development on its fiftieth session (Council resolutions 10 (II), 1139 (XLI) and 1996/7)

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its twenty-first session (Council resolution 1992/1)

Narcotic drugs

Documentation

Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-fifth session (Council resolutions 9 (I) and 1991/39)

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2011 (article 15 of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs, 1961; article 18 of the Convention on Psychotropic Substances, 1971; and article 23 of the 1988 United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances)

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

Documentation

Oral report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (General Assembly resolution 58/153)

Comprehensive implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action

Documentation

No request for advance documentation

Human rights

Documentation

Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its forty-sixth and forty-seventh sessions (Council resolutions 1988 (LX), 1985/17 and 1995/39)

Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (General Assembly resolution 48/141)[1]

Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on its fifty-fourth, fifty-fifth, fifty-sixth and fifty-seventh sessions (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex, article 44, para. 5)[1]

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

Documentation

Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its eleventh session (Council resolution 2000/22)

Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on relevant developments in the field of genetic privacy and non-discrimination and on a possible inter-agency coordination mechanism (Council decision 2008/233)

United Nations E/2011/2

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
22 December 2010

Original: English

Organizational session for 2011
18 January, 15-18 February and 27 and 28 April 2011
Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

1. Election of the Bureau.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Basic programme of work of the Council.
4. Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments.

Annotations

1. Election of the Bureau

Rule 18 of the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council provides that, each year at the commencement of its first meeting, the Council shall elect a President and four Vice-Presidents from among the representatives of its members. The membership of the Council in 2011 is given in the annex below. According to the equitable geographical rotation of the office of the President among the regional groups, the President for 2011 should be the representative of a member of the African States group. The four Vice-Presidents of the Council shall be elected on the basis of equitable geographical distribution from the regional groups, excluding that to which the President belongs.

The President and Vice-Presidents shall constitute the Bureau. The Council, upon the recommendation of the President, shall decide on the special responsibilities of each of the Vice-Presidents.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77, a meeting of the Council will be held on 18 January 2011 for the election of the Bureau.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 13 of the rules of procedure of the Council provides that, at the beginning of each session, after the election of the Bureau when required under rule 18, the Council shall adopt the agenda for the session.

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The present provisional agenda has been prepared in conformity with the provisions of General Assembly resolution 48/162 and of other relevant legislative decisions, including, in particular, the provisions of Assembly resolutions 50/227 and 61/16.

3. Basic programme of work of the Council

In accordance with rule 8 of the rules of procedure of the Council, the Council shall draw up, at its organizational session, with the assistance of the Secretary-General, its basic programme of work for the year.

Pursuant to Council resolution 1988/77 on the revitalization of the Council, the President, prior to the organizational session, and with the cooperation of the other members of the Bureau, will arrange for consultations with members of the Council on the draft programme of work and provisional agenda prepared by the Secretary-General and make proposals thereon for consideration by the Council.

The Council will have before it the proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 2011 and 2012 (E/2011/1) prepared by the Secretariat in accordance with the relevant decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly.

The Council's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 52/12 B, in which the Assembly decided to create a humanitarian affairs segment of the Council. In accordance with Council decision 1999/208, the Council, at its organizational session, may wish to select a theme for the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2011.

The Council's attention is also drawn to General Assembly resolution 61/16, in which the Assembly decided that the Council should continue to promote global dialogue, inter alia, through strengthening existing arrangements, including a thematic discussion on a theme from economic, social and related fields to be decided by the Council and informed by a report of the Secretary-General.

Pursuant to Council decision 1982/174 on the rationalization of the work of the Council, the Council decided to identify, at its annual organizational session, a subject relating to interregional cooperation, of common interest to all regions, for detailed consideration under the agenda item on regional cooperation, and to request the executive secretaries of the regional commissions to submit their joint recommendations in that regard to the Council at its annual organizational session.

Pursuant to Council decision 2006/206 on adapting the work of the Council, the President of the Council will convene consultations of the Council, on an as-available basis, to adapt its organization of work, agenda and current methods of work in pursuance of paragraphs 155 and 156 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome and the related provisions of General Assembly resolution 61/16.

In its decision 2008/258, the Council decided that the theme of the annual ministerial review of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2011 would be "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education".

In its decision 2010/262, the Council decided that the theme of the thematic discussion of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2011 would be "Current global and national trends and challenges and their impact on education".

In its resolution 2008/29, the Council decided that the coordination segment of its substantive session of 2011 would be devoted to the theme of the 2010 ministerial declaration on implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women.

In its decision 2009/250, the Council, taking note of the note by the Secretary-General (E/2009/78) on the proposal of the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to amend article 49, paragraphs 1 (c) and 2 (e), of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, decided, with reference to article 47, paragraph 1, of the Convention, to initiate the procedures established in paragraph 1 (b) of that article, which states that the parties shall be asked whether they accept the proposed amendment and also asked to submit to the Council any comments on the proposal. The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the text of Council decision 2009/250 in a depositary notification dated 30 July 2009.

The Secretary-General communicated to the Council a note verbale dated 28 August 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations, rejecting the proposed amendment (see E/2009/116). The Secretary-General also communicated to the Council a note verbale dated 28 January 2010 from the Permanent Mission of Egypt to the United Nations informing the Council of Egypt's withdrawal of its objection to the proposed amendment to the Convention (see E/2010/7). The Secretary-General, acting in his capacity as depositary, communicated to the parties to the Convention the two notes verbales in depositary notifications dated 19 November 2009 and 24 February 2010.

In accordance with article 47 (2) of the Convention, if a proposed amendment circulated under paragraph 1 (b) of the article has not been rejected by any Party within 18 months after it has been circulated, that is on or before 31 January 2011, it shall thereupon enter into force. If, however, the proposed amendment is rejected by any Party, the Economic and Social Council may decide, in the light of comments received from Parties, whether a conference shall be called to consider such amendment.

The Council's attention is drawn to paragraph 56 of the annex to General Assembly resolution 63/303, in which the Assembly requested the Council:

(a) To consider the promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the United Nations development system and specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of that outcome document, in order to advance consistency and coherence in support of consensus-building around policies related to the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development;

(b) To make recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with the Doha Declaration of 2 December 2008, for a strengthened and more effective and inclusive intergovernmental process to carry out the financing for development follow-up;

(c) Examine the strengthening of institutional arrangements to promote international cooperation in tax matters, including the United Nations Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters;

(d) Review the implementation of the agreements between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions in collaboration with those institutions,

focusing in particular on enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions, as well as on the opportunities for contributing to advancing their respective mandates;

(e) Consider and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development. The panel could provide independent technical expertise and analysis, which would contribute to informing international action and political decision-making and fostering constructive dialogues and exchanges among policymakers, academics, institutions and civil society.

In that regard, the Secretariat, in accordance with Council decision 2009/258, submitted to the Council a report of the Secretary-General on the promotion and enhancement of a coordinated response of the United Nations development system and the specialized agencies in the follow-up to and implementation of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (E/2009/114); a note by the Secretariat on enhancing collaboration and cooperation between the United Nations and the Bretton Woods institutions (E/2009/115); and a note by the Secretariat on the possible establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world economic and financial crisis and its impact on development: past terms of reference and any relevant factors or experience of previous ad hoc panels of experts (E/2009/113). A summary has been prepared by the President of the Council of the review of progress achieved in the follow-up to paragraph 56 of the Outcome of the Conference (E/2009/119).

The Council's attention is drawn to General Assembly resolution 64/193, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the need for a strengthened and more effective intergovernmental inclusive process to carry out the financing for development follow-up and to review progress in the implementation of commitments, identify obstacles, challenges and emerging issues and propose concrete recommendations and actions; and endorsed, in that regard, the recommendations of the Council as contained in its resolution 2009/30.

In its resolution 2010/26, the Council welcomed the new modalities of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development; encouraged the President of the Council, in consultation with Member States, to continue to work with the appropriate representatives of those stakeholders to improve the agenda and the format of the Council's high-level meeting, considering innovative approaches conducive, inter alia, to the high-level participation of those institutions; and welcomed the efforts undertaken to give more prominence to the consideration of the agenda item on financing for development during the annual substantive session of the Council, including the allocation of the item to its coordination segment.

Pursuant to Council resolutions 2009/30 and 2010/26, the President of the Council will convene consultations of the Council and between the Bureau of the Council and appropriate representatives of the governing bodies of the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development regarding the dates, substantive focus and format of the high-level meeting of the Council. The Council may also wish to consider, in the context of the preparations for its substantive session for 2011, the modalities of its consideration of the agenda item on financing for development, as appropriate.

In its decision 2010/264, the Council decided to continue its consideration of the draft resolution on the establishment of an ad hoc panel of experts on the world financial and economic crisis and its impact on development (E/2010/L.37), with a view to making final recommendations to the General Assembly, in accordance with the mandate of paragraph 56 (e) of the Outcome of the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development, during its substantive session of 2011.

In its resolution 2010/28, the Council welcomed the report of its Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and decided to extend the mandate of that Group until the substantive session of the Council in 2012, with the purpose of closely following and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote post-disaster socio-economic recovery, stability and reconstruction, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities, as contained in the Government's Action Plan for the Reconstruction and National Development of Haiti, and stressed the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms. In the same resolution, the Council requested the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to report on its activities in support of the recovery, reconstruction and development of the country, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Council for consideration at its organizational and substantive sessions of 2011.

In its decision 2010/265, the Council decided to further defer consideration of the first two draft resolutions contained in chapter I, section B, of the report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2010/15/Add.1) to its substantive session of 2011.

In its decision 2010/256, the Council decided to defer its consideration of the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2010/44) on its ninth session until a later stage but before its substantive session of 2011.

Pursuant to Council resolution 2010/33 on the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters, the President of the Council will convene a discussion within the Council by spring 2011 on international cooperation in tax matters.

Documentation

Proposed basic programme of work of the Council for 2011 and 2012 (E/2011/1)

Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields (E/2010/15/Add.1)

Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (E/2010/44) on its ninth session

Report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its fifth session (E/2009/45)

Oral report by the President of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

4. Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments

The Council will hold elections to fill vacancies in its subsidiary bodies.

Documentation

Addendum to the provisional agenda of the organizational session for 2011 (E/2011/2/Add.1)[1]

[1] To be issued.

10-70643

Annex

Members of the Economic and Social Council for 2011

	Term expires on 31 December
Argentina	2012
Australia	2013
Bahamas	2012
Bangladesh	2012
Belgium	2012
Cameroon	2013
Canada	2012
Chile	2012
China	2013
Comoros	2012
Côte d'Ivoire	2011
Ecuador	2013
Egypt	2012
Estonia	2011
Finland	2013
France	2011
Gabon	2013
Germany	2011
Ghana	2012
Guatemala	2011
Guinea-Bissau	2011
Hungary	2013
India	2011
Iraq	2012
Italy	2012
Japan	2011
Latvia	2013

	Term expires on 31 December
Malawi	2013
Malta	2011
Mauritius	2011
Mexico	2013
Mongolia	2012
Morocco	2011
Namibia	2011
Nicaragua	2013
Norway	2013
Pakistan	2013
Peru	2011
Philippines	2012
Qatar	2013
Republic of Korea	2013
Russian Federation	2013
Rwanda	2012
Saint Kitts and Nevis	2011
Saudi Arabia	2011
Senegal	2013
Slovakia	2012
Spain	2011
Switzerland	2011
Ukraine	2012
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2013
United States of America	2012
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)	2011
Zambia	2012

United Nations A/66/61–E/2011/3

General Assembly
Economic and Social Council

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General Assembly
Sixty-sixth session

Social development: social development, including questions relating to the world social situation and to youth, ageing, disabled persons and the family

Economic and Social Council
Substantive session of 2011

Social and human rights questions: social development

Implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth: United Nations system coordination and collaboration related to youth

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in accordance with resolution 47/1 of the Commission for Social Development. It describes the mechanisms for coordination and collaboration of relevant United Nations entities in their work related to youth. The report highlights examples of effective United Nations system collaboration on youth at the global, regional and country levels and discusses steps to further strengthen coordination among relevant United Nations entities.

10-64782 (E) 161210

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 47/1,[1] the Commission for Social Development requested the Secretary-General to provide to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session, a comprehensive report on the coordination and collaboration of relevant United Nations entities in their work related to youth.

2. The present report, which responds to this request, is itself an example of inter-agency collaboration. It is based on inputs received from the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. The report highlights selected examples of effective collaboration on youth at the global, regional and country levels and briefly discusses steps to further increase coordination among relevant United Nations entities. While the scope of this report precludes an exhaustive list of inter-agency activities, particularly at the country level, the examples chosen emphasize the range of ongoing inter-agency activities and highlight the success factors for effective collaboration.

3. The next section of the report begins with an overview of prominent examples of coordination and collaboration taking place within the United Nations system at the global level, starting with the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. Successful instances of institutionalized inter-agency collaboration are also highlighted in this section of the report, along with other forms of collaboration between United Nations entities, civil society organizations and other relevant partners. The third section reports on coordination and collaboration at the regional level and presents information on activities that have been undertaken at the country level. Policy recommendations are provided in the concluding part of the report.

II. Coordination and collaboration at the global level

A. United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development

4. The United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development is the main mechanism of cooperation on matters related to youth development within the United Nations system. The Network consists of United Nations entities whose work is relevant to youth. Formal terms of reference for the Network were drawn up and adopted in early 2010 at a meeting of 17 United Nations entities working in the field of youth. The terms of reference define the purpose and objectives of the Network and outline its methods of operation and the parameters of its membership.

5. The aim of the Network is to increase the effectiveness of the United Nations work in youth development at the global, regional and country levels. This is achieved by strengthening collaboration and exchange among all relevant United Nations entities, while respecting and harnessing the benefits of their individual strengths and unique approaches and mandates.

6. The Network also contributes to increasing the understanding and visibility of the United Nations system's work on youth development through joint advocacy

[1] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 6* (E/2009/26-E/CN.5/2009/9), chap. I, sect. D.

initiatives. It also facilitates and supports youth participation within the United Nations system, through its programmes and initiatives, at all levels.

7. The Network has two co-chairs. The permanent co-chair is the United Nations Programme on Youth of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat. The second co-chair is selected by the members and rotates on an annual basis. The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) served as the co-chair for period March 2010-February 2011.

8. The Network holds regular meetings at United Nations Headquarters, with telephone/video conferencing to other duty stations. A face-to-face meeting of the entities' representatives is held on an annual basis and, whenever possible, in the context of another youth-related meeting. Experts and organizations, in particular youth-led and youth-focused organizations and networks, whose knowledge may contribute to the Network's activities, may be invited to its meetings by the co-chairs, after consultation with other members of the Network.

9. In early 2010, the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development developed the United Nations Framework Approach for the International Year of Youth: Dialogue and Mutual Understanding in order to guide collective efforts during the Year. The United Nations system's approach for the Year focuses on three key areas: (a) increasing commitment and investment in youth; (b) increasing youth participation and partnerships; (c) increasing intercultural understanding among youth. Moreover, members of the Network have developed a series of fact sheets on key issues of relevance to youth for the International Year.[2]

10. The Inter-Agency Network also organized the global launch of the Year on 12 August 2010 at United Nations Headquarters. The launch celebrated young people's contribution to development and peace. On that occasion, the principals of 28 entities of the Network issued a joint statement emphasizing their willingness to work together to tackle the multifaceted challenges facing young people. In addition to the global launch event, several entities organized joint launch activities together with regional United Nations information centres in their respective duty stations.

11. In the lead-up to the world youth conference called for by the General Assembly as the highlight of the Youth, the Inter-agency Network is organizing a series of briefings on major issues of relevance to the theme of the Year, to be held at United Nations Headquarters.

12. A number of future joint activities are also planned for the Network, including a report on youth civic engagement, a joint follow-up mechanism of key youth events, a global database of national youth policies and the identification and development of relevant youth indicators.

13. Other proposals for future collaboration include increased interregional sharing of data and exchange of good practices and relevant youth development experiences. Greater technical cooperation with Governments as well as research in areas such as emerging youth subcultures, changes in political participation of young generations and new patterns of inclusion and communication have also been suggested.

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[2] http://social.un.org/youthyear/launch.html#fact.

14. In support of the activities of the Inter-Agency Network, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA) established, in September 2010, a working group of its social development cluster to develop joint research initiatives focused on youth development.[3] The working group is tasked with: (a) initiating a stocktaking of youth-focused research, programmes and activities across the United Nations system; (b) developing a long-term research strategy on youth development; and preparing guidelines on how to engage youth.

B. Other institutionalized inter-agency collaboration

15. In some cases, inter-agency collaboration has been institutionalized through the creation of specific long-term structures to serve as official secretariats to facilitate such collaboration. Two examples of such institutionalized inter-agency collaboration in the area of youth are the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Youth Employment Network (YEN).

UNAIDS

16. Empowering young people to protect themselves from HIV is a priority of UNAIDS. In particular, UNAIDS seeks a 30 per cent reduction in new HIV infections among young people (15- to 24-year-olds) by 2015 through the provision of comprehensive sexual and reproductive information, skills, services and commodities, in a safe and supportive environment tailored to the specific country and epidemic context. In order to achieve this goal, UNAIDS aims to increase young people's comprehensive knowledge of HIV, use of condoms and use of HIV testing and counselling services. Within the overall collaborative framework of UNAIDS, a number of inter-agency task teams, such as the task team on HIV and young people and the task team on education, promote further inter-agency collaboration related to youth.

17. The inter-agency task team on HIV and young people was created in 2001 to support an accelerated, harmonized and expanded global, regional and country-level response to the need to increase young people's utilization of HIV services. Membership includes the UNAIDS Secretariat and co-sponsors, along with youth networks/associations, donors, civil society, and research institutions. It is convened by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) as a lead agency on HIV and young people, as agreed in the UNAIDS technical division of labour.

18. The task team on education was created in 2002 to promote accelerated and improved education-sector responses to HIV and to support global and country-level actions. Membership includes the UNAIDS co-sponsors, bilateral agencies, private foundations and civil society partners supporting education-sector responses to HIV. It is convened by UNESCO, as the lead agency on HIV and young people in educational institutions.

19. Over the years, inter-agency task teams have produced many guidelines and tools aimed at supporting and strengthening the implementation of HIV programmes for young people. A recent output of the task team on HIV and young people includes detailed research on good practices in ongoing coordination and joint

[3] EC-ESA aims to foster coherence and common approaches among United Nations entities engaged in normative, analytical and technical work in the economic and social field.

programming on HIV and young people. The research highlights the need for, and the benefits of, coordination and joint programming on HIV and young people at the country level through case studies of good practices.[4]

Youth Employment Network

20. The Youth Employment Network (YEN) is another example of an institutionalized inter-agency cooperation mechanism on youth. YEN is a partnership between the United Nations, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, set up in the wake of the Millennium Summit of the United Nations to find new and durable solutions to the youth employment challenge. The Network is a global platform whose goal is to prioritize youth employment on the development agenda and to exchange knowledge on effective policies and programmes to improve employment opportunities for youth. It focuses on policy advice, innovative pilot projects, knowledge-sharing and brokering partnerships. YEN makes use of its core agency partners' know-how and resources and ensures youth participation in delivering its services. YEN is managed by a permanent secretariat hosted by ILO offices in Geneva, Dakar and Dar es Salaam.

21. One of the key initiatives of YEN is its lead country network, composed of policymakers from 19 countries who have committed to prioritizing youth employment on their national policy agenda and have agreed to work towards meeting targets on youth employment. Other main activities include: the Youth-to-Youth Fund, which supports youth-led employment-generation projects; the YEN evaluation clinics, which provide technical and financial support to policymakers and practitioners to help them conduct rigorous evaluations of their youth employment programmes and policies, and the so-called Marketplace, an online space for the global youth employment community to exchange or offer innovative ideas, good practices, expertise and advice.

C. Other forms of inter-agency collaboration at the global level

22. Below are a few examples of the many inter-agency task forces or working groups which address the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth.

United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force

23. In November 2007, the United Nations Adolescent Girls Task Force was convened in response to the need for a clear inter-agency programming framework specifically addressing the most marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls. The objective of the Task Force is to support the United Nations system in ensuring that programmes of cooperation with Governments and civil society raise awareness of the situation of the most marginalized and disadvantaged adolescent girls and prescribe practical action to fulfil their rights. Co-chaired by UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Task Force includes UNESCO, the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the World Health Organization

[4] See UNFPA, UNAIDS and BBC World Service Trust (2010), Good Practice in Joint Programmes and Ongoing Coordination on HIV and Young People. 15 Nominated Programmes as well as UNFPA, UNAIDS and BBC World Service Trust (2010), Good Practice in Joint Programmes and Ongoing Coordination on HIV and Young People. Three Selected Good Practice Programmes.

(WHO) and ILO and supports collaboration at the country level with Government ministries, civil society organizations and women's and girls' networks.

24. In 2010, at the fifty-fourth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Adolescent Girls Task Force launched the United Nations Joint Statement on Adolescent Girls, in which the heads of all six participating agencies pledged to intensify their efforts to fulfil the human rights of adolescent girls with a particular emphasis on those hardest to reach. The Joint Statement identifies five strategic areas: education, health, prevention of violence, leadership development and data. A joint programming framework to roll out the work in these five areas at country level is currently under development.

Inter-agency cooperation on climate change and sustainable development

25. The United Nations Joint Framework Initiative on Children, Youth, and Climate Change was created in October 2008 under the auspices of the secretariat of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The aim of the Initiative is to share information among interested United Nations agencies on their activities engaging children and youth on climate change issues at the national, regional and global levels. The Initiative also allows participating agencies to share plans for events on child and youth issues that are to be organized at meetings of the Conference of the Parties (COP) to the Convention and to facilitate a coordinated United Nations effort to that effect.

26. In this context, the Joint Framework Initiative implemented a series of activities at recent sessions of the Conference of the Parties (COP). It also published *Growing Together in a Changing Climate: The United Nations, Young People, and Climate Change*, which contains information on some of the many climate change initiatives — projects, campaigns, educational tools, websites and publications — produced by the United Nations and young people. Moreover, it coordinated the publication of the brochure "Youth participation in the UNFCCC negotiation process", which aims to inform Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and young people on mechanisms for youth participation at the sessions of COP.

27. The increased interest in youth and climate change has also led to other forms of cooperation among United Nations entities. In the lead-up to COP 15 in Copenhagen in December 2009, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) organized the Tunza International Children and Youth Conference on Climate Change in Daejeon, Republic of Korea, which was attended by 800 children and youth. The Conference was supported by UNICEF, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNESCO and the UNFCCC secretariat and led to a youth statement on the Copenhagen process.[5]

28. In cooperation with other United Nations entities, notably WHO, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), UNEP also organized regional seminars and workshops in all regions of the world to engage young people and their networks on climate change- and biodiversity-related issues. UNEP has also taken advantage of an online platform developed by UNICEF which allows children and youth globally to interact and

[5] www.un-ngls.org/spip.php?page=article_s&id_article=1570.

have online discussions on topics of importance to them, including environmental issues. The engagement of young people to commemorate major United Nations environment days, such as World Environment Day (5 June) and the International Day for Biological Diversity (22 May), also relies heavily on the UNICEF social networking platform.[6]

29. Through the youthXchange programme, UNEP and UNESCO engage young people all over the world by providing information on ways of adopting sustainable consumption habits and practices, as well as with awareness-raising campaigns, communication and education. The programme reaches out to youth through a network of diverse partners including non-governmental organizations, youth groups, education centres, schools and public institutions and is present in 45 countries in all regions of the world. A special youthXchange programme guidebook on climate change is also being developed with the objective of inspiring young people to take action and address climate change through sustainable lifestyle choices.

30. FAO and the secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity, in collaboration with the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, have published an educational package on biodiversity. It includes a comprehensive youth guide covering all aspects of biodiversity and current global biodiversity challenges, and a biodiversity challenge badge that encourages young people to learn about and to take practical actions supporting biodiversity in their communities.

Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies

31. The Inter-Agency Network for Education in Emergencies was founded in 2000 with the aim of improving inter-agency communication and collaboration in the provisions of education opportunities and services in emergency and post-crisis contexts.[7] The current steering group is composed of UNESCO, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNICEF and the World Bank in equal partnership with CARE International, ChildFund International, the International Rescue Committee, International Save the Children Alliance, Open Society Institute and Refugee Education Trust.

Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism

32. The Task Force for the Protection of Children in Tourism is an open-ended network with multi-stakeholder participation, including the United Nations World Tourism Organization, ILO and UNICEF.[8] The Task Force is focused on the prevention of all forms of exploitation of children and adolescents in the tourism sector, such as sexual exploitation, child labour and trafficking. The Task Force meetings, held annually at international travel and tourism fairs, serve as a platform for both the public and private tourism sectors, including civil society and the media, to exchange experiences and best practices, promote the adoption of professional codes of conduct and responsible practices, in line with the World Tourism Organization Global Code of Ethics for Tourism, as well as to disseminate awareness-raising materials and capacity-building tools.

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[6] www.unicef.org/videoaudio/video_50646.html.

[7] www.ineesite.org/.

[8] www.unwto.org/protect_children/index.php?op=0.

33. The Task Force promotes and supports an international campaign with the slogan "Don't let child abuse travel" which was launched in November 2008.

III. Coordination and collaboration at the regional level

34. The following section presents the work of the United Nations from a regional perspective, focusing on Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Western Asia/Arab States. It describes existing regional mechanisms that are in place to facilitate coordination and coherence in the work of the United Nations and highlights a number of country projects, activities and partnerships.

A. Africa

Collaboration at the regional level

35. In Africa, as in other regions, the Regional Coordination Mechanism provides the overall framework for enhancing policy coherence and creating synergy and efficiency in the work of the United Nations at the regional and subregional levels. In May 2010, an education and youth sub-cluster was launched under the social and human development cluster of the Regional Coordination Mechanism. Its aim is to provide a platform for the coordination of United Nations support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programme, particularly in the areas of education and youth development.

36. The education and youth sub-cluster is convened by UNESCO and supported by ECA, as secretariat of the social and human development cluster. The sub-cluster's mandate is to provide programmatic, technical and institutional support to the African Union and its New Partnership for Africa's Development programmes in the area of education and youth, including the implementation of the Second Decade of Education for Africa Plan of Action and the ratification and implementation of the African Union Youth Charter by member States.

37. The education and youth sub-cluster has contributed to the establishment of the African Youth Volunteer Corps programme, led by UNFPA in partnership with ILO, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), ECA, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNESCO and the United Nations Volunteers programme. The African Youth Volunteer Corps programme aims at youth development through exchange of knowledge and experience among African youth in the various countries. It also aims to offer employment opportunities and instil a culture of public service in African youth.

38. The education and youth sub-cluster will extend its support to the planning, organization and evaluation of the future sessions of both the Conference of Ministers of Education of the African Union and the Conference of Ministers of Youth of the African Union. The sub-cluster will also work to facilitate the coordination and harmonization of the work of African institutions of higher education and will solicit support for the establishment of the Pan African University as well as a pan African youth institute. In addition, the sub-cluster aims at developing strategic partnerships with development organizations outside the United Nations that are active in the area of education.

Collaboration at the country level

39. A number of inter-agency programmes and projects implemented at the national level focus on promoting employment opportunities for youth. An example of one such activity is the Multi-stakeholder Programme for Productive and Decent Work for Youth in the Mano River Union countries, jointly developed by the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, ILO, YEN and UNDP. It complements the Regional Programme for Social Cohesion and Employment Policies in West Africa developed by UNDP. The underlying principle of the partnership is to tap into each agency's expertise and maximize synergies stemming from inter-agency cooperation.

40. The programme focuses on three key lines of action: (a) the promotion of self-employment and entrepreneurship among youth; (b) enhancing employability of young people; and (c) supporting expansion of existing youth-led employment-generating activities.

41. As a spin-off of the initial phase of the Mano River Union Multi-stakeholder Programme, UNIDO, together with UNICEF and YEN, have launched a nationwide programme in Guinea to develop youth-driven businesses, primarily in the area of waste management. The first year of the programme is funded from the Peacebuilding Fund. The programme aims at engaging over 10,000 young people, with special attention being paid to disadvantaged youth. It focuses on access to direct funding opportunities for youth social entrepreneurship, and coaching and training schemes. It is supported by an information technology-based communications platform so as to enhance youth participation and information sharing among all stakeholders.

B. Asia and the Pacific

Collaboration at the regional level

42. The United Nations Asia-Pacific Inter-agency Group on Youth, chaired by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, serves as the coordinating platform for youth-related matters in the United Nations system in the region. The Group comprises the United Nations and associated entities that undertake programmes of relevance to young people in the region, including FAO, ILO, UNAIDS, UNDP, UNESCO, UNFPA and UNICEF. The Group was formally established in 2010 to support the principles of Delivering as One.

43. The Inter-agency Group's terms of reference include supporting the regional implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, the Millennium Development Goals (as they pertain to youth) and other youth-relevant internationally agreed development goals. The Group is set to prepare a compilation of youth policies ranging from poverty alleviation to employment, health care and education and to develop a framework for sharing and disseminating information on innovative and good practices and lessons learned. The Group is planning a regional meeting involving youth organizations and other stakeholders in early 2011 to help coherently plan United Nations programmes related to youth.

Collaboration at the country level

44. In several countries in the Asia and Pacific region, United Nations specialized agencies have actively collaborated on youth issues. Programme coordinating groups have been established to allow agencies to collaborate on technical interventions, while thematic working groups have been created to enable cooperation on specific target group interventions.

45. Programme coordinating groups are often chaired by the country representative of one of the resident United Nations entities working on youth issues. Collaboration between funds, programmes and specialized agencies has been effective in the formulation of national youth strategies and in the implementation of national youth policies, as well as in the establishment of youth advisory panels and the organization of national youth conferences. It has ensured greater youth participation and inputs to United Nations programme design, planning and implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and has contributed to developing mechanisms for enhanced dialogue and information exchange between Governments, United Nations agencies, youth organizations and youth groups.

46. Examples of inter-agency collaboration in the area of youth can be found in a variety of countries in the region. For instance, in Mongolia, UNFPA, WHO, UNICEF and UNDP have been supporting the development of youth-friendly health centres. In Myanmar and Timor-Leste, UNFPA and UNICEF have been active in the development of youth-friendly information, education and communication materials on HIV/AIDS and adolescent sexual and reproductive health. In Nepal, the United Nations Country Team participated in a series of national advocacy forums and conducted an audit of the United Nations resident entities' understanding of and responsiveness to youth issues. In Pakistan, ILO, UNESCO and UNFPA have been working together with the Ministry of Youth Affairs, Labour and Education and young people in formulating concrete recommendations for developing a national implementation plan for youth development.

C. Europe

47. The number of youth-related country projects in Europe and in other developed countries is limited. However, two projects, in Albania and Serbia, are worth highlighting. In Albania, the Youth Migration, Reaping the Benefit and Mitigating the Risks programme is being implemented by ILO, IOM, UNDP and UNICEF, together with four different Government entities and public-private partnerships. Its goal is to improve decent work opportunities for youth and migration management through a revision of national strategies on youth, employment and migration.

48. In Serbia, the same four United Nations entities mentioned above carry out a project entitled Support to National Efforts for the Promotion of Youth Employment and Management of Migration, in collaboration with seven governmental entities. The project aims at supporting national and local institutions in their efforts to increase youth employment, including among young Roma who have returned to the country. Both projects are implemented with financial support from the MDG Achievement Fund.

49. The country-level work is operated through joint programmes on youth, employment and migration. Currently, there are 14 such programmes being implemented with the support of United Nations country teams in Africa (the Sudan and Tunisia), Asia (China and the Philippines), South-East Europe (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia and Turkey) and Latin America (Costa Rica, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Honduras, Paraguay and Peru). They involve partnerships at both country and local levels.

D. Latin America and the Caribbean

United Nations Development Group working group on youth

50. The Regional United Nations Development Group Team for Latin America and the Caribbean recently established a working group on youth as a follow-up to the World Youth Conference held in Léon, Guanajuato, Mexico in August 2010 and the regional pre-Conference for the Americas, held in Bahia, Brazil in May 2010. The working group is currently developing its terms of reference and programme of work.

Ibero-American cooperation system

51. Several entities of the United Nations system, including ECLAC, UNESCO, UNICEF and UNFPA, have joined forces with the Secretariat to develop a multidisciplinary research agenda on youth. Other stakeholders include the European Commission, the German technical cooperation agency GTZ and the Ibero-American Youth Organization. A major outcome of this joint effort was the publication of a report on youth and social cohesion on the occasion of the Eighteenth Ibero-American Summit held in El Salvador in 2008.[9]

52. Data collection and research have also been conducted on various youth-related topics including adolescent pregnancy and motherhood and indigenous youth. A system of disaggregated indicators has been created to monitor the social and economic situation of youth in all countries of the region which are published online and accessible to all stakeholders.[10]

Inter-agency project on best practices in youth policies and programmes

53. The Best Practices project, coordinated by UNESCO and the Inter-American Development Bank, was supported by seven United Nations agencies and five intergovernmental organizations, with a total of 24 partners. The first phase of the project was devoted to preparing a review of best practices in youth policies and programmes in the region. The selection was reviewed at a high-level regional forum in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico in 2009 which brought together policymakers, researchers, young experts and representatives of international organizations and non-governmental organizations from the region. The outcome of the project, which consists of a selection of best practices and policy recommendations, is in the process of being published by the Inter-American Development Bank and UNESCO. The success of the project has generated interest from United Nations partners who are exploring ways of carrying out a similar project at the global level.

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[9] *Juventud y cohesión social en Iberoamérica: Un modelo para armar.*

[10] This system of indicators can be found at http://sicj.cepal.org and www.iberostat.org.

Collaboration at a country level

54. In Costa Rica, a joint programme entitled Youth, Employment and Migration: a One-Stop Shop for Youth Employment was established in 2008 with the support of UNESCO, UNICEF, UNFPA, UNDP IOM, ILO, FAO and more than 20 national entities from Government agencies, the business and labour sector as well as civil society and youth organizations. The aim of the programme is to address youth unemployment, particularly among the most vulnerable groups, and to improve youth entrepreneurship and business opportunities for young people.

55. In Paraguay, UNICEF, ILO, UNIFEM, UNFPA and UNDP cooperate with 12 different governmental entities on a project entitled "Youth: economic capacities and opportunities for social inclusion". The project aims at increasing the skills and employment opportunities of young people in poverty through entrepreneurship, technical and employment training as well as through the provision of information to young migrant workers. The project also aims at generating greater respect for labour standards. In addition, the project has contributed to the creation of the Observatorio Nacional de Juventud (National Observatory for Young People).

E. Western Asia/Arab States

56. Collaboration between the Regional Director's Team and the United Nations Development Group Arab States/Middle East and North Africa Region culminated in the formulation of the regional Inter-Agency Strategic Action Plan on Young People for 2010 and 2011 to guide the United Nations entities' work on youth in the Arab region.

57. The Action Plan identifies six aspects of young people's development as key technical areas of intervention: health, education, protection, participation, employment and decent work, and emergencies. For each of these areas, concrete objectives and activities as well as lead agencies have been identified.

Example of collaboration at the country level

58. In Tunisia, IOM, UNDP, FAO, ILO and UNIDO, alongside governmental and non-governmental entities at the national and local levels are working together on the programme Engaging Tunisian Youth to Achieve the MDGs. The programme aims to create decent jobs for both skilled and unskilled young people.

IV. Benefits and challenges of inter-agency collaboration and lessons learned

A. Benefits of inter-agency collaboration

59. The experience of inter-agency collaboration on youth at the global, regional and country levels has demonstrated a number of important benefits. The coordinating mechanisms and working groups that have been established at various levels provide a forum to share information and knowledge, avoid duplication of initiatives and identify complementary expertise and potentials for synergies in delivering relevant outcomes. Sharing of contacts and pooling of networks and expertise has proven to be especially helpful. In particular, organizations with only a

global or regional headquarters have been able to benefit from the country networks of partner agencies. At the same time, the agencies themselves have benefited from improved access to intergovernmental processes that take place at the global or regional level.

60. Since the challenges facing young people are multifaceted, sectoral approaches are insufficient to improve the well-being of young people in a holistic manner. By combining efforts, United Nations entities are able to draw on their specific expertise, mandates and resources to ensure that youth issues are addressed in a comprehensive manner.

B. Challenges

61. Inter-agency collaboration on youth has not been without its challenges. Members of the United Nations system have different mandates and missions which do not always complement each other. United Nations organizations also operate with different financial mechanisms and procedures and have, for the most part, limited financial and human resources to allocate to coordination.

62. With the exception of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region, no joint workplan has, to date, been adopted by the various inter-agency mechanisms. Rather, entities have focused on implementing their own workplans and have participated in inter-agency activities that were in line with previously existing, agency-specific workplans.

63. Programmes and projects involving a limited number of United Nations entities, especially at a country level, have been more successful than those involving a large number of partners. Evidence has shown that having a programme coordinator and a joint programme unit made up of all partners is conducive to joint programming.

V. Conclusions and recommendations

64. Collaboration within the United Nations system on youth-related matters has expanded significantly in recent years. This increased collaboration has resulted in the adoption of more strategic approaches to promoting youth development and, increasingly, joint programme delivery by the United Nations system. Yet, to fully reap the benefits of inter-agency coordination, more remains to be done.

65. **In view of the foregoing, the General Assembly may wish to consider the following recommendations:**

(a) **To call upon the relevant organizations of the United Nations system to further increase coordination and collaboration in their work related to youth;**

(b) **To call upon the regional coordination mechanisms of the United Nations to adopt and/or implement regional inter-agency action plans in support of Member States' efforts to develop holistic and integrated youth policies based on the World Programme of Action;**

(c) **To call upon relevant organizations of the United Nations system to further develop inclusive and accessible mechanisms for youth participation in inter-agency initiatives on youth development.**

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Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report is submitted in response to General Assembly resolution 64/133 of 18 December 2009. The report is divided into four sections. Section II highlights the issues addressed by the above-mentioned resolution, including confronting family poverty; promoting intergenerational solidarity; reconciling work and family life; and collecting national and regional data on family well-being. Section III focuses on the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. The report briefly reviews human rights instruments and outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits as they relate to the family, it examines their relevance and importance for maintaining focus on the family, and it identifies the issues in need of renewed attention and action to guide preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. Section III also offers suggestions on the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family at the international, regional and national levels. The last section puts forward conclusions and recommendations.

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 64/133 on Follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, through the Commission for Social Development at its forty-ninth session and the Economic and Social Council, on the implementation of the above-mentioned resolution and on the appropriate ways and means to observe the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, in 2014.

2. The unanimous proclamation of 1994 as the International Year of the Family was in recognition of the importance families play in social development. Focusing on families offered a comprehensive, people-centred perspective on development issues that are routinely approached from a sectoral policy or social group point of view. The theme of the International Year: "Family: resources and responsibilities in a changing world" called attention to both the rights and responsibilities of family members and the economic and social processes affecting those rights and responsibilities.

3. As basic and essential building blocks of societies, families have a crucial role in social development. They bear the primary responsibility for the education and socialization of children as well as instilling values of citizenship and belonging in the society. Families provide material and non-material care and support to its members, from children to older persons or those suffering from illness, sheltering them from hardship to the maximum possible extent.

4. The social protection function performed by families is especially important in times of increased uncertainty and vulnerability. Families find it more and more difficult, however, to fulfil these multiple roles and tackle all responsibilities entrusted, either traditionally or by default, to them. As extended family networks get smaller owing to changes in living arrangements and family size, families struggle to fulfil their mutual obligations towards all family members, young and old. Furthermore, rapid socio-economic transformations, often combined with the eroding capacity of the State to protect households from their negative impacts through social policy interventions, leave a large number of families poor and vulnerable.

5. Over the years, the international community has recognized both the importance of families for the achievement of development goals and the challenges families face and the assistance they need to overcome them. The objectives of the International Year of the Family have helped to provide overall guidance for national efforts benefiting families. The body of human rights instruments compelled Governments to protect families and their individual members. The outcomes of major conferences acknowledged the role of families and addressed areas of special concern. General Assembly resolutions and Secretary-General's reports submitted in response to them focused on challenges and opportunities faced by families and recommended specific actions to make the family both a participant and a beneficiary of development efforts.

6. Although the international community shares a global concern over the future of the family and its role in development, a long-term plan of action for families, like those for youth or older persons, has not been developed. This has been partly because of the lack of consensus on the definition of the family and other family-

sensitive considerations in the development and implementation of family-oriented policies.

7. The recent Millennium Development Summit outcome document (General Assembly resolution 65/1) does not mention the family, except in the context of family planning. Yet, the majority of the Millennium Development targets, especially those relating to the reduction of poverty, education of children and reduction in maternal mortality, are difficult to attain unless the strategies to achieve them focus on the family.

8. Although there is no explicit family framework at the international level, many Governments recognize families as agents of development and actively pursue family-oriented social policies at the national level. In fact, over the years specific family-friendly policies have gained ground. Among them, non-contributory social transfer programmes, including conditional cash transfers, targeting mostly poor families, have become a core element of poverty reduction strategies in many developing countries. Such interventions have been credited with a reduction in the intergenerational transmission of poverty and better educational and health outcomes for children. These positive outcomes led to the growing popularity of similar programmes and demonstrated the value of focusing on family-centred policies to achieve development goals.

9. Notwithstanding national efforts, at the international level the family is appreciated but not prioritized in development efforts. The very contribution of families to the achievement of development goals continues to be largely overlooked, while there seems to be a consensus on the fact that, so far, the stability and cohesiveness of communities and societies largely rest on the strength of the family.

10. In effect, the very achievement of development goals depends on how well families are empowered to contribute to the achievement of those goals. Thus, policies focusing on improving the well-being of families are certain to benefit development. Such policies should not only help families to cope with their numerous responsibilities and shelter them from vulnerability; they should aim at supporting a variety of family functions rather than replacing them and treating families as collections of individuals, who independently need support.

11. The upcoming anniversary of the International Year of the Family offers an opportunity to add a family focus to development efforts with the objective of strengthening them as agents of development for the benefit of the society at large.

12. The present report focuses on four areas of relevance to the family noted by the General Assembly in resolution 64/133: confronting family poverty; promoting intergenerational solidarity; reconciling work and family life; and collecting national and regional data on family well-being. The report further addresses those issues in the context of the three objectives of the World Summit for Social Development — poverty eradication, employment and decent work and social integration — as a basis for the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

13. The report also provides a concise overview of family-related provisions from major human rights instruments and outcomes of United Nations conferences and summits and puts forward a draft framework for the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family. Proposed suggestions include activities at international, regional and national levels to raise

awareness of the role of the family in development and support families in performing their societal and developmental functions.

II. Follow-up to the International Year of the Family

Issues and policy responses

14. Recent discussions on issues affecting families tend to centre on confronting family poverty, supporting intergenerational solidarity and reconciling work and family life. In turn, policy responses to those issues involve family-focused social policies, such as social protection mechanisms; specific programmes to address intergenerational relations and measures to assist families with children in balancing their work and family life. The collection of reliable data on family well-being to inform results-based policymaking is also a subject of increased attention by policymakers and practitioners. A brief overview of the importance of focusing on these issues and examples of policy responses relating to them follows.

A. Confronting family poverty

15. In its resolution 64/133, the General Assembly encouraged Member States to adopt holistic approaches to policies and programmes confronting family poverty and social exclusion. The Assembly noted the importance of family-oriented and gender- and child-sensitive social protection policies in addressing family poverty and reducing the vulnerability of younger and older generations. Such policies have been increasingly mainstreamed in the overall development efforts.

16. Family-focused social transfer programmes in developing countries link cash transfers with basic service provisions. Brazil's Bolsa Familia and Mexico's Oportunidades offer income supplements to families living in poverty provided that they send their children to school and ensure health check-ups. Other programmes provide income benefits for households working in local infrastructure development. Paid employment is guaranteed by the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in India and through the Productive Safety Net Programme in Ethiopia. Chile Solidario is an integrated anti-poverty programme where cash transfers are combined with interventions in employment, health, education and housing.

17. Conditional cash transfers target families living in poverty. They differ in the coverage, programme design and context in which they operate. They range in coverage from 11 million families in Brazil to 215,000 in Chile, to pilot programmes with a few thousand families in Kenya and Nicaragua. They cover 40 per cent of the population in Ecuador, about 20 per cent in Brazil and Mexico and just 1 per cent of the population in Cambodia. In terms of expenditure, the costs range from about 0.50 per cent of GDP in Brazil, Ecuador and Mexico to 0.08 per cent of GDP in Chile. The level of the benefit varies from 20 per cent of mean household consumption in Mexico to 4 per cent in Honduras, and lower amounts for programmes in Bangladesh, Cambodia and Pakistan.[1]

[1] A. Fiszbein and N. Schady, *Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty* (World Bank, 2009).

18. All programmes seek to reduce poverty and vulnerability. Beneficiaries are mostly in poor or the poorest households with children. Focus on children aims at halting the intergenerational transfer of poverty, keeping them in school and reducing child labour.

19. Research demonstrates that family-oriented social protection programmes proved to be effective in shielding families from the negative effects of economic shocks, reducing their vulnerabilities and preventing them from slipping further into poverty.[2] The programmes improve nutrition, access to health and the overall health status of beneficiaries. Social protection schemes targeting families also allow them to make proper investments in their children's education helping to prevent intergenerational transfer of poverty. Conditional cash transfers improve school attendance and performance. According to the independent expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty, "While cash transfers enable families to absorb the costs associated with schooling, other programmes, such as school feeding programmes or initiatives that provide fee waivers or subsidies for low-income families with children, also appear to be associated with higher school attendance levels" (A/65/259, para. 25). Research also shows that family access to social protection benefits like unemployment and disability benefits reduces child labour.[3] Findings from Colombia's Familias en Acción, Peru's Juntos, Chile's Chile Solidario, Nicaragua's Red de Protección Social, Mexico's Oportunidades, and South Africa's Old Age and Disability Grant confirm that social transfers have an important role in improving preventive health practices for the benefit of mothers and infants.

20. Cash and in kind transfers may help families and individuals to protect their productive assets or invest in such assets and establish income-generating activities (see A/65/259, para. 18). However, the resulting improvement in the lives of the recipients is often limited and rarely provides a pathway out of poverty.

21. Many social protection programmes are gender-sensitive, recognizing the role of women in care provision. At the same time, efforts should be made to avoid stereotyping and discrimination and promote the value of all types of work, including home care for both men and women. There is also a need for more programmes involving men to support and provide care for family members. It is equally important to ensure that programmes are designed to address unequal decision-making powers within families.

22. The effective delivery of social transfer programmes is predicated on an efficient administrative structure and an adequate financial capacity. Middle-income countries are mostly able to carry out such programmes to scale. Most low-income countries lack such capacity: programmes are implemented on a limited scale and/or remain at the pilot stage and often require sustained support from external donors. Moreover, to ensure their sustainability, social transfer programmes should be backed by sound macroeconomic and fiscal policies. Their success will also depend on the adequate provision of basic social services, especially for the most vulnerable families and individuals.

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[2] "Effects of non-contributory social transfers in developing countries: A compendium". Working paper (ILO, May 2010).

[3] A. Cigno, F. C. Rosati and Z. Tzannatos, *Child Labour Handbook*, Social Protection Discussion Paper Series No. 0206 (World Bank, 2002).

B. Promoting intergenerational solidarity

23. Intergenerational solidarity mostly relates to reciprocal care, support and exchange of material and non-material resources between family members, typically younger and older generations. The demographic transition, changes in family structures and living arrangements as well as migration often negatively impact intergenerational relations and solidarity.

24. Multigenerational families, with strong ties based on intergenerational support and reliance, although still common in many parts of the world, are rapidly declining in numbers. Families are becoming smaller and more diverse, many young people postpone marriage, more stay single or divorce, and many live longer with their parents. All those developments pose new demands on family members and test the traditional grandparent-parent-youth relationships. Such trends, combined with the fact that many countries are ill-equipped to address their effects, also indicate that intergenerational dependence between the younger and older family members may grow stronger.

25. Young people need special support in their transition to adulthood. For many, it is increasingly difficult to find gainful employment, afford independent housing and start their own families. Patterns of leaving parental homes are also evolving and are affected by changing structures of the labour and housing markets, changing patterns of family formation and expansion in education and training opportunities. Young people need affordable housing allowing them geographical mobility to respond to education, training and employment opportunities. Lack of affordable housing and limited prospects for income-generating activities may also force young people to forgo their educational and training opportunities and prolong their stay in the parental home. Transition to responsible adulthood may be postponed and reliance on the older generation, especially in terms of housing provision and income-support, increases.

26. According to survey research in developed and developing countries, despite social and economic changes, family bonds remain strong and family members assist one another through financial support and care. In both developed and developing countries, older people, especially the younger-old, are more likely to provide financial support to younger family members than they are to receive it, even though there may be a perception that younger generations are faced with the burden of taking care of the older ones (see A/65/157, paras. 48 and 49). The Survey on Health, Ageing and Retirement in Europe (SHARE) reports that over half of grandmothers and nearly half of grandfathers — 58 and 49 per cent, respectively — provided some care for a grandchild on a regular basis. In southern Europe, where co-residence is more prevalent, grandparents provide the greatest amount of care to their grandchildren. On the other hand, research also demonstrates that fewer and fewer parents expect their children to take care of them in their old age.

27. Social protection schemes have been found to promote intergenerational solidarity. Examples from South Africa and Namibia show that grandparents use their non-contributory social pensions to cover their grandchildren's school fees.[4] Evidence from social pension schemes in Lesotho and Namibia indicates that

[4] Stephen Devereux, *Social Pensions in Namibia and South Africa* (Institute of Development Studies Discussion Paper 379 (February 2001)).

elderly people have improved their financial self-reliance and hence their status within the household. Social pensions can thus play an important role in restoring dignity and conferring recognition to elderly people.[5]

28. Community programmes and the promotion of intergenerational communication at work are good steps towards better intergenerational relations. Policies aimed at reconciling work and family life and eliminating age-related barriers in the workplace may also contribute to improved intergenerational relations at the family, community and society levels.

29. Examples from several countries of concrete measures aimed at strengthening intergenerational solidarity include the training of younger employees by experienced workers and the assurance of young peoples' participation in poverty eradication, employment creation and social integration programmes. In Australia, intergenerational exchange programmes have been found to help younger and older persons to build very concrete, and often highly specialized, skills, find work and expand career opportunities. Benefits to the broader community include the building, maintenance and revitalization of public infrastructure.[6]

30. School-based intergenerational programmes involve obligatory community service, requiring young people, typically high school students, to help older persons in their day-to-day activities. They can also include mentoring programmes, where older persons volunteer to help children and young people with their schoolwork. The initial analysis of 133 intergenerational programmes in Spain found that, on an individual level, these programmes appear to improve self-confidence, self-esteem and perceived health, facilitating greater community integration and involvement.[7]

31. Some programmes recognize that intergenerational approaches effectively address many priorities, such as: the building of active communities; the promotion of citizenship; and the regeneration of neighbourhoods as well as addressing inequality and social exclusion. In the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Manchester Generations Together programme, launched in 2009, connects people across generations to build understanding and respect. The programme challenges public agencies, businesses and communities to enable older persons' participation in the plans for the regeneration of the city. One of its projects develops skills sharing through a school volunteering programme, and another helps younger and older people to start social and non-profit enterprises together.[8]

32. In some countries, family-oriented support includes cash benefits for family members who care for older family members. The "cash and counselling" programme run by Medicaid in the United States of America pays seniors directly to cover their in-home care. Cash can then be transferred to the family members who care for them. In South Africa, support is given to older caregivers, especially those

[5] International Labour Organization, "Effects of non-contributory social transfers in developing countries: A compendium". Working paper (May 2010), p. x.

[6] J. MacCallum and others, "Community Building through Intergenerational Exchange Programs: Report to the National Youth Affairs Research Scheme" (Canberra, 2006).

[7] Mariano Sanchez and others, "Intergenerational programmes: towards a society for all ages" (Social Studies Collection No. 23, 2007).

[8] Family Platform Online Journal, vol. 2: Solidarities in Contemporary Families. Available from http://www.familyplatform.eu/en/home/publications/journal-volume-2-solidarities-in-contemporary-families.

caring for children and youth with HIV/AIDS. These types of programmes help families to overcome the burden of care and strengthen family ties. It should be noted, however, that the evaluation of intergenerational programmes has been mostly qualitative, incorporating interviews and focus groups, with limited quantitative evaluation of their effectiveness having been undertaken so far.

C. Reconciling work and family life

33. Equality and equity in opportunities, access to resources and equal sharing of responsibilities between men and women as well as respect for the rights of all family members are essential for both the well-being of the family and that of the society at large.

34. Families find it more and more difficult to reconcile the competing necessities of their work and family obligations. The burden of care quasi-universally placed on women tends to significantly limit their access to employment and social participation. Whereas, today, both women and men are engaged in gainful employment, the domestic workload still remains the responsibility of women for the most part, a fact that remains largely unaddressed in the context of both legal and social policy frameworks. Comprehensive legal and policy frameworks balancing work and family life should be established to allow for shared care responsibilities between men and women, other family members, the State, the private sector and society as a whole.

35. Policy interventions aimed at facilitating better balancing of work and family life range from parental leave to child benefits and access to affordable childcare. However, most measures are accessible only to women employed in the formal sector, excluding all those working in informal jobs. Also, even when provisions exist, experience shows that they may not be implemented.

36. An assessment of parental leave policies in 21 developed countries indicates that total protected job leave available to couples varies widely from 14 weeks in Switzerland to over 300 weeks in France and Spain. Most countries provide between three months and one year of full-time equivalent paid leave. The review noted that the Nordic countries of Finland, Norway and Sweden offered the best policies in terms of both generosity and gender equality outcomes.[9]

37. In the European Union, work-life balance policies often focus on the increased female labour market participation and a more egalitarian division of labour at home. The provision of quality childcare is considered a preferred policy option to help parents to reconcile work and family life. At the Barcelona Summit in 2002, the European Council set concrete targets of providing childcare by 2010 to at least 90 per cent of children between 3 years of age and the mandatory school age and at least 33 per cent of children under 3 years of age. Eurostat data indicate that the use of formal childcare arrangements varies from 73 per cent in Denmark to 2 per cent in the Czech Republic and Poland, and 7 States members of the European Union (EU) have already met the Barcelona targets. It is expected that childcare will

[9] R. Ray, J. C. Gornick and J. Smitt, "Parental Leave Policies in 21 Countries: assessing Generosity and Gender Equality", Center for Economic and Policy Research (Washington, D.C., September 2008).

remain central to social care policy in EU since it is related to the needs of the economy, the labour market and gender equality policy.

38. While specific policies provide incentives towards changing the perception that men's work is worth more than women's and that caring is the sole responsibility of women, stereotypes remain entrenched and much more needs to be done. Society should recognize the equal value of both types of work and strengthen families to fulfil this role. Such transformation would ensure that caregiving responsibility is shared between men and women with society at large, including the responsibility of the State and markets.[10] In essence, both men and women have a right to paid employment without being forced to neglect their family responsibilities.

39. Yet, behaviour and perception are slowly changing. Fathers are no longer solely regarded as breadwinners but increasingly as full partners in co-parenting. These new expectations are, inter alia, due to the rise in women's professional and educational status and the corresponding increase in the importance of their earnings and new demands on their professional careers. In response to these trends, new "father-sensitive" policies, such as statutory paternal leave and flexible working provisions, facilitating the increased role of men in caregiving, have been adopted in several countries, particularly in Europe. Findings show that fathers are most likely to take paternity leave when it is longer than 14 days and offers income replacement of 50 per cent or more.[11]

D. Collecting national and regional data on family well-being

40. Evidence-based policymaking rests on the availability of reliable data on family well-being. Data illustrating the situation of families and challenges they face are needed to inform and stimulate a debate over explicit family policy and its impact as well as to identify the most vulnerable families in need of immediate assistance.

41. The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development has recently launched a Global State of the Family Index.[12] The database includes indicators of family well-being such as infant and maternal mortality, marriage and divorce, educational attainment and other quantitative indicators relevant to the family. The data can be mapped geographically by countries, with timeline tables available to compare the indicators in different countries and regions over time. The database also allows for animation of many indicators, making for a better illustration of trends.

42. The Research Division of the European Commission has carried out a Family Platform project. The project has critically reviewed existing research on the family in Europe. The final report of this project, to conclude in 2011, will serve as the research agenda and basis for the European Union family policies road map 2012-2013 and will address issues such as: gender equality at work and at home,

[10] International Labour Organization and United Nations Development Programme, "Work and Family: towards new forms of reconciliation with social co-responsibility" (2009).

[11] Margaret O'Brien, "Fathers, Parental Leave Policies and Infant Quality of Life", International Perspectives and Policy Impact", The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science (2009), vol. 624, No. 1, pp. 190-213.

[12] Available from http://globalfamilyindex.org.qa/.

reconciliation of work and family life, care of family members over the life course, intergenerational solidarity, and immigrant families and their integration in host countries. The project aims to answer the question of how European policies and the States members of EU can improve the well-being of families in the long term.[13]

43. One of the major conclusions of the research carried out so far is that family policy in Europe should focus on the rising number of lone-parent families who are most at risk of poverty. Another area of concern is the fact that women continue to assume a remarkably bigger share of domestic work even in dual-earner families, and the division of paid and especially unpaid work continues to be gendered and particularly resistant to policy interventions. Even though EU policy is "father-sensitive", encouraging men's caring role and fatherhood, a division of gender roles prevails with women providing the bulk of domestic work. Current research also demonstrates the new role of grandparents in financial support of their children and caring for their grandchildren.[14]

III. Preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

A. Review of family-related provisions of human rights instruments and outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits

44. International focus on the family stems from the mandate of the International Year of the Family observed in 1994. One of the objectives of the Year is to build upon the results of international activities concerning individual family members as well as other major events of concern to the family or its individual members.

45. In addition, numerous General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 64/133 on the follow-up to the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and beyond, noted that "the family-related provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits of the 1990s and their follow-up processes continue to provide policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of policies and programmes as part of an integrated comprehensive approach to development". The review below highlights the most important issues pertaining to family as contained in those frameworks.

1. Human rights instruments

46. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights affirms in article 16 that the family, as the fundamental group unit of society, is entitled to protection by society and the State (General Assembly resolution 217 A (III)). This is echoed by article 10 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and article 23 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex). Human rights law upholds the right of people to marry and form a family, and the right of children to a family. As the family can be vulnerable to social, economic and political pressure, human rights law also seeks to

[13] See http://www.familyplatform.eu/en/home.

[14] Family Platform, "Research on Families and Family Policies in Europe: State of the Art". Final report 15 September 2010.

support the family by stipulating State obligations to keep families together and reunify them in case of separation.

47. Gender equality and the importance of ensuring work and family balance is the focus of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women. The Convention is especially relevant when it comes to discrimination and unequal treatment of women and their status in the family, setting provisions for equal rights and responsibilities within a family. Enabling parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life is also emphasized (General Assembly resolution 34/180, annex, articles 5, 11 and 16).

48. Human rights instruments also lay down standards for the treatment of children lacking parental care and oblige States to provide for foster care or adoption. Equal rights and responsibilities of men and women at marriage, during the marriage and at its dissolution are also upheld, as are the rights of children to parental care and being free from abuse. The Convention on the Rights of the Child stipulates that the family, as the natural environment for the growth and well-being of all its members and particularly children, should be afforded the necessary protection and assistance so that it can fully assume its responsibilities within the community (General Assembly resolution 44/25, annex, fifth preambular paragraph). Parents have the most important role in the bringing up of children and are encouraged to deal with rights issues with their children "in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child" (ibid., article 5). The Convention addresses children's rights from a child's perspective and urges adherence to the best interest of the child, focusing on survival and developmental, protection and participation rights.

49. The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities stipulates that persons with disabilities and their family members should receive the necessary protection and assistance to enable families to contribute towards the full and equal enjoyment of the rights of persons with disabilities (General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I, preambular paragraph (x)).

50. In the context of human rights, it is important to acknowledge that there are still families, as there are individuals and communities, that enforce customs endangering the situation of women, perpetrate violence against women and children, and seek to dominate those who are weaker and defenceless. Older family members as well as those with disabilities may fall victim to neglect and abuse within their own families as well. That is why the authority of the family is limited by the human rights of its individual members.

2. Major United Nations conferences, summits and instruments

51. The Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, 1994 contains family-relevant policy recommendations in the areas of housing, work, health, social security and education, including parenting. The Programme of Action also notes that it is important to develop the capacity to monitor the impact of social and economic decisions and actions on the well-being of families, on the status of women within families, and on the ability of families to meet the basic needs of their members. Families in vulnerable situations are in need of particular assistance. Such families include single-parent families headed by women, refugee and displaced families, those where family members are affected by HIV/AIDS, substance dependence, child abuse and domestic violence as well as

families living in poverty, families affected by war, drought, natural disasters, discrimination or violence. Governments are encouraged to support and develop appropriate mechanisms to assist families caring for children, their older members and family members with disabilities and support the viability of multigenerational families.[15]

52. The World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the General Assembly in 1995, emphasizes the increasing difficulty for young people to receive family life education as a basis for forming healthy families that foster sharing of responsibilities (resolution 50/81, annex, para. 6 (l)). It also notes that youth unemployment deprives young people of the opportunity to secure independent housing necessary to establish families (ibid., para. 34). The Supplement to the World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond observes that trends in globalization and development have resulted in situations where many young people are cut off from their families (General Assembly resolution 62/126, annex, para. 54). It also calls for programmes to strengthen families and to foster intergenerational relations (ibid., para. 58).

53. Women's role in families is underscored by the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, 1995, which noted that women's literacy was an important key to improving health, nutrition and education in the family and to empowering women to participate in decision-making in society.[16] Reconciling work and family responsibilities takes up a large share of recommendations on family well-being, e.g., policies should facilitate the restructuring of work patterns to promote the sharing of family responsibilities and promote career development based on work conditions that harmonize work and family responsibilities.

54. The Habitat Agenda adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitats II), held in Istanbul in 1996, commits Governments to encouraging social and economic policies "designed to meet the housing needs of families and their individual members, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members, with particular attention to the care of children."[17]

55. The World Summit for Social Development, 1995, recognized the family as the basic unit of society and acknowledged its key role in social development. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development acknowledged that the family should be strengthened, with attention to the rights, capabilities and responsibilities of its members. It also noted that the family is entitled to receive comprehensive protection and support and that "in different cultural, political and social systems various forms of family exist".[18] Member States also commit themselves to provide the family with an environment that ensures its protection and support.[19]

56. The Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development recognizes the critical contribution of families to social integration. Mutual respect, tolerance and cooperation, as well as equal partnership between women and men in the family, are critical to the respect of these values in the society at large. It is,

[15] A/CONF.171/13/Rev.1, paras. 5.9, 5.7, 5.12 and 5.11.
[16] A/CONF.177/20/Rev.1, para. 69.
[17] A/CONF.165/14, para. 40 (k).
[18] A/CONF.166/9, para. 26 (h).
[19] Ibid., Commitment 4 (k).

therefore, important to ensure opportunities for family members to understand and meet their social responsibilities within the family and within society. Consequently, social and economic policies should be designed with a view to meeting the needs of families and their individual members, especially the most disadvantaged and vulnerable members, with particular attention to the care of children.[20]

57. At its twenty-fourth special session, which marked the fifth anniversary of the World Summit on Social Development, the General Assembly further observed that "greater attention should be paid to helping the family in its supporting, educating and nurturing roles, to the causes and consequences of family disintegration, and to the adoption of measures to reconcile work and family life for women and men" (General Assembly resolution S/24/2, para. 56). It also recognized the importance of promoting appropriate action to meet the needs of families, especially in the areas of economic support and provision of social services.

58. The Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, adopted at the Second World Assembly on Ageing in 2002, noted that families were important to promote reciprocity, intergenerational solidarity and interdependence. It emphasizes the importance of ensuring conditions that enabled families to provide care and protection to persons as they age through family-friendly and gender-sensitive policies aimed at reconciling work and caregiving responsibilities. The Plan of Action also expressed a growing concern that a lack of family-friendly policy regarding the organization of work could increase difficulties relating to family care obligations and the ability of women to build pensions and other resources for their retirement.[21]

59. In addition to the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits, it is also pertinent to note the International Labour Organization's instruments recognizing workers with families. Its Convention on Workers with Family Responsibilities argues that the absence of effective measures for reconciling work and family responsibilities compromised development. It also called upon States to create national policies that enable workers with families to engage in employment without risking discrimination and take measures to develop or promote community services, public or private, such as childcare and family services and facilities, thus enabling parents to engage in employment.[22] The Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families requires States Parties to take appropriate measures to ensure the protection of the unity of the families of migrant workers and facilitate their reunification (General Assembly resolution 45/158, article 44).

60. This brief overview demonstrates that the concern over the well-being of families is a tangible element of the outcomes of major conferences and summits. The international community clearly recognizes that, as a basic unit of society, the family plays a key role in social development and deserves protection and assistance to fulfil its multiple roles. Existing instruments do provide a series of guidelines on the types of policies needed to empower families.

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[20] Ibid., para. 81.

[21] A/CONF.197/9, paras. 28 (i) and 25.

[22] International Labour Organization Convention No. 156, Workers with Family Responsibilities Convention, 1981, articles 4 and 5.

3. General Assembly resolutions and reports of the Secretary-General on the family

61. The General Assembly resolutions focusing on the family since the proclamation of the International Year of the Family in 1989 have dealt with a wide range of issues relevant to the well-being of families around the world. Governments were encouraged to mainstream family policy into their overall policymaking, build on the provisions of family-related international activities, and take special measures to increase the well-being of families.

62. Similarly, the Secretary-General's reports guided national, regional and international efforts for the implementation of those resolutions. Most recently the attention of the international community focused on some specific aspects of family policy, including integrating a family perspective into the promotion of social protection and investing in intergenerational solidarity within families and communities. Further exploration of these issues and their interconnectedness is warranted, especially now, when the effects of the current economic crisis point to the relevance of social protection and intergenerational solidarity as coping strategies.

B. Proposed framework for the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

63. The General Assembly, in its resolution 59/111 of 6 December 2004, decided to celebrate the anniversary of the International Year of the Family on a 10-year basis. Thus the international community can take stock of family issues at regular intervals and keep the focus on the family on the international agenda.

64. On the basis of the overall objectives of the International Year of the Family, family-oriented components of the outcomes of the United Nations conferences and summits highlighted above, as well as general guidance provided by the General Assembly resolutions focusing on the family and the reports of the Secretary-General in response to those resolutions, a framework for the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary emerges.

1. Objectives of the International Year of the Family, 1994

65. The overall objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up process continue to guide national and international efforts to benefit families worldwide: increasing awareness of family issues among Governments and the private sector; strengthening the capacity of national institutions in family policymaking; stimulating efforts to respond to problems affecting families; undertaking reviews and assessments of the situation and needs of families; enhancing effectiveness of current and new programmes; improving collaboration among national and international non-governmental organizations in support of families; and building upon the results of international activities of concern to the family or its individual members.

66. Raising awareness of family issues will continue to be a major priority for the years to come. It may involve efforts to highlight the importance of family functions, such as socialization of children and caring for young and old family members, as well as the role of families in development and their contribution to building socially integrated societies.

67. Strengthening the national institutional capacity to design, implement, monitor and assess comprehensive and coherent family policies encompasses both the training of policymakers and practitioners and the creation and development of dedicated administrative units within relevant ministries. Sharing of experiences among countries in this area will be very beneficial.

68. Scaling up efforts in response to specific problems affecting families may entail providing better access to education, health services and housing, especially for families in vulnerable situations. Innovative ways of responding to the needs of families could be showcased and good practices shared.

69. Strengthening partnership with civil society organizations is critical to both securing a family perspective in policymaking and programme implementation as well as raising awareness of family issues.

70. National policymaking should be continually guided by duties and obligations pledged at the international forum. All these major objectives remain valid and should continue to guide the national, regional and international preparations for the twentieth anniversary.

2. Tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family

71. The preparations for the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 focused on the approaches to family policy development; technology and its impact on the family; parental roles and intrafamilial support systems; statistics and indicators for family well-being and HIV/AIDS and its impact on families. Those issues were discussed at several meetings leading to the tenth anniversary, and were the subject of several publications prepared by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat.

72. For the twentieth anniversary it would be advisable to continue focusing on family policy development and sharing of experiences and information.

3. Proposed themes for the twentieth anniversary

73. The importance of the family in social development deserves to be placed high on the agenda of the Commission for Social Development, especially as it relates to the achievement of the three pillars of the Copenhagen Conference: reduction of poverty, full employment and decent work and social integration. To that end the following major themes — the importance of which was highlighted in section II of the report — are proposed to guide the preparations for the observance of the twentieth anniversary:

(a) Confronting family poverty and social exclusion;

(b) Ensuring work-family balance;

(c) Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and the communities.

C. Preparations at the international level

74. The annual observance of the International Day of Families helps to raise awareness of family issues and stimulate efforts to respond to challenges faced by

families. The 2010 observance focused on "The impact of migration on families around the world". It was particularly relevant to the plight of migrant families facing prolonged separation, economic hardship and discrimination in the countries of destination.

75. The observances of the International Day of Families from 2011 to 2013 could centre on the themes established for the twentieth anniversary as follows: 2011: Confronting family poverty and social exclusion; 2012: Ensuring work and family balance; and 2013: Advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity. The celebration of the International Day of Families in May 2014 will address the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and focus on progress and challenges ahead.

76. The upcoming sessions of the Commission for Social Development and family-focused side events will offer an opportunity to raise awareness of family issues, assess family policies and highlight the activities for the twentieth anniversary. Governments will also be asked to share good practices in promoting the well-being of families in the three areas noted above and showcase their national efforts to implement family-focused policies and programmes. Depending on the support of Member States, an observance commemorating the twentieth anniversary could be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York in the autumn of 2014.

D. Preparations at the regional level

77. The upcoming anniversary of the International Year of the Family presents an opportunity to draw attention to challenges faced by families in different parts of the world. Appropriate preparations at regional and subregional levels would help to assess and review the situation of families in the regions, encourage greater efforts at regional data collection and stimulate an exchange of good practices in family policymaking.

78. Accordingly, it would be advisable to hold regional meetings focusing on the themes for the twentieth anniversary. Such regional gatherings could review the progress towards the implementation of the objectives of the International Year of the Family and draw attention to the issues of concern to the regions. The meetings would be attended by various stakeholders, including Government representatives, policymakers, United Nations agencies and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector.

79. With the support of Member States, regional partners and non-governmental organizations as well as academic institutions, regional meetings could be convened under their sponsorship. The United Nations Programme on the Family stands ready to assist in the preparations for regional meetings and dissemination of their findings and recommendations.

80. Each regional meeting would focus on the themes for the twentieth anniversary and issues of concern to the region. Specific policies, programmes and good practices would be showcased. At the conclusion of each meeting, a report summarizing the findings, highlighting policies supporting the well-being of families and making recommendations on the best ways to further advance it will be

published. Possible ways of strengthening regional and international cooperation could also be discussed.

81. In 2014 an international conference may be convened to present the findings and recommendations from regional meetings. The final recommendations of the conference could be used to guide efforts of the international community to strengthen families and ensure that they are the focus of development efforts in the years to come.

E. Preparations at the national level

82. Governments will be encouraged to plan, coordinate and carry out activities in support of the overall objectives of the International Year of the Family and the priority themes of the twentieth anniversary.

83. Member States will be urged to develop appropriate policies to address family poverty and social exclusion, especially in families in the most vulnerable situations. Work-family balance policies, already high on the agenda of many Governments and international organizations, require closer scrutiny as to what policies are effective and where improvements should be made. The impact of family dynamics on social integration may be the most challenging issue to address and groundwork may have to be undertaken here.

84. Governments will be encouraged to review and assess their family policies as well as all policies that have a direct bearing on the well-being of families. Challenges faced in family policy design, implementation and monitoring and ways to overcome them should also be noted and lessons learned shared.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

85. The upcoming twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family obliges Member States to review the international commitments to the family expressed in human rights instruments and outcomes of major conferences and summits. It offers an unprecedented opportunity to place the family high on the development agenda and recognize that families should be a focus of social policy for the sake of present and future generations.

86. As recognized by the General Assembly in numerous resolutions, the family-oriented provisions of the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the 1990s as well as their follow-up processes offer policy guidance on ways to strengthen family-centred components of family policies and programmes. Moreover, the outcomes of those conferences provide a framework for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and guide international efforts for their achievement.

87. The twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family, coming on the eve of the target year of the Millennium Development Goals, gives us an opportunity to refocus on the role of families in development. The success of these endeavours will depend on the commitment of Member States to support the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its follow-up process.

88. The overall objectives of the twentieth anniversary need to focus on how best to support families in their functions, share good practices on family policies, review challenges faced by families and recommend solutions. Tangible support for families on the part of the international community demonstrates its commitment to the goals of social development, including social cohesion and solidarity between generations.

89. The following recommendations are proposed for consideration by the Commission for Social Development:

(a) The Commission could review the proposals contained in the present report on the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family and recommend appropriate actions to be undertaken to that effect at the national, regional and international levels;

(b) The Commission may consider supporting the following major themes to guide the preparations for the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in line with the three pillars of the Copenhagen Conference:

(i) Poverty eradication: confronting family poverty and social exclusion;

(ii) Full employment and decent work: ensuring work-family balance;

(iii) Social integration: advancing social integration and intergenerational solidarity within families and communities;

(c) The Commission may consider requesting Governments to report on their national activities in support of the twentieth anniversary of the International Year of the Family;

(d) Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, civil society organizations and academic institutions should share good practices and data in the area of family-oriented policy development, implementation and monitoring and family well-being;

(e) Governments, United Nations agencies and bodies, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, research and academic institutions and the private sector should be encouraged to play a supportive role in promoting the objectives of the International Year of the Family and its twentieth anniversary.

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Operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation: reports of the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund, the United Nations Children's Fund and the World Food Programme

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Item 5 of the provisional agenda
Report to the Economic and Social Council

Report to the Economic and Social Council

Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund

Summary

This report is submitted in compliance with General Assembly resolutions 56/201, 59/250 and 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy reviews of operational activities for development of the United Nations system.

The Executive Board may wish to take note of the report and decide to transmit it to the Economic and Social Council with the comments and guidance provided by delegations at the present session.

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I. Introduction

1. The present report responds to General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system. It follows previous United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) reports to the Economic and Social Council and may be read in conjunction with the annual reports of the Administrator of UNDP and the Executive Director of UNFPA to the Executive Board. Those reports provide analyses of programme achievements against key results of the strategic plans of UNDP and UNFPA, 2008-2013, as well as statistical evidence of programme results, cross-sectoral strategies and performance indicators on management and operations.

2. The present report also responds to Executive Board decision 2009/3, which requested UNDP and UNFPA to: (a) include in future reports to the Economic and Social Council a more qualitative assessment and analysis of results achieved, progress made and difficulties encountered, as well as lessons learned; and (b) adhere to the structure established in General Assembly resolution 62/208 and include recommendations to further improve its implementation. The report reflects consultations held among UNDP, UNFPA and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF). All sections of the report reflect actions taken by UNDP and UNFPA to implement Assembly resolution 62/208.

II. Funding for operational activities of the United Nations development system

3. In 2009, UNFPA income from regular contributions was $469.4 million, the highest ever. UNFPA surpassed the strategic plan target of $433 million by 8.3 per cent. However, this was a conservative target and does not necessarily reflect programme needs. UNFPA continues to expand its donor base and maintains a favourable ratio of regular to other contribution types. In 2009, UNFPA received contributions from 161 Governments, compared with 176 in 2008. The five largest donors providing regular contributions were the Netherlands, Sweden, Norway, the United States of America and Denmark. About 98 per cent of total contributions came from 21 major donors, and about 90 per cent of regular contributions are commitments in national currencies, which are subject to exchange rate volatility.

4. Other resources to support thematic funds, projects and programmes increased steadily in absolute terms. In the past few years the ratio between co-financing and regular contributions has been between 35 and 40 per cent. Total co-financing contributions in 2009 were $270.1 million, a decrease of 16.3 per cent from $322.7 million in 2008.

5. Total contributions to UNDP and to its associated funds and programmes reached $5.34 billion in 2009. In 2009 contributions to regular (core) resources reached $1.01 billion in nominal terms, a decrease of 8 per cent from the $1.10 billion achieved in 2008, and 19 per cent below the 2009 annual target for regular resources set out in the UNDP strategic plan, 2008-2013 (DP/2007/43/Rev.1). Contributions to regular resources did not reach the 2008 level due to volume decreases in local currency terms by some donor countries and less favourable exchange rates.

6. Projections suggest that contributions to regular resources will remain below the level of $1 billion and reach approximately $960 million in 2010, subject to exchange rate fluctuations, further widening the gap between actual contributions and the annual targets set out in the UNDP strategic plan.

7. Other (non-core) contributions to UNDP in 2009 remained almost unchanged, reaching $4.13 billion, compared with $4.16 billion in 2008. Non-core contributions from bilateral donors amounted to $1.56 billion in 2009, which represents an increase of 8 per cent compared with 2008. Non-core resources entrusted to UNDP by non-bilateral partners and multilateral funds reached $1.55 billion, which represents an increase of 15 per cent over 2008. Resources channelled through UNDP by programme country Governments and local partners in support of their own national development decreased to $0.72 billion in 2009, a decrease of 25 per cent compared with 2008 and a sharper reduction than projected in the strategic plan.

8. Other resources represent an important complement to the regular (non-earmarked) UNDP resource base. The ratio of regular contributions to other contributions, however, remained at approximately 1:4 in 2009. As outlined in the integrated resources framework of its strategic plan, UNDP seeks to balance the ratio of regular to other resources and secure an adequate, stable and predictable base of regular resources.

9. It should be noted that multi-donor trust funds provide flexible, coordinated and predictable funding to United Nations organizations to support the achievement of nationally owned and determined priorities. By channelling donor contributions through a pooled mechanism, multi-donor trust funds facilitate and streamline donor contributions, align reporting to national Governments and donors, reduce transaction costs and improve operational effectiveness. By facilitating improved coordination among all stakeholders, such trust funds also provide a forum for policy dialogue and programmatic coordination and harmonization. Overall, they have become one of the important financing tools available to the United Nations system to help channel funds towards a strategic vision that supports the achievement of national and global agreed goals and priorities. In 2009, UNDP received $1.2 billion in new donor contributions on behalf of the United Nations system. This brings the total cumulative deposited funds as at 31 December 2009 to $4.2 billion. The funds were contributed by 54 donors and developing countries with Spain, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the European Union, Japan, Norway, the Netherlands and Sweden accounting for 89 per cent of total. As at the end 2009, $3.1 billion was transferred to 42 United Nations organizations participating in 32 multi-donor trust funds and 20 joint programmes operating in 74 countries.

III. Contribution of United Nations operational activities to national capacity development and development effectiveness

10. Capacity development is a core strategy in the fulfilment of both the UNFPA and UNDP mandates and related activities in key focus areas of their respective strategic plans. Capacity development is implemented at national, institutional and community levels. It is a systemic, often complex and rigorous process that supports improved national and institutional performance even during periods of transition or

shocks. There is no standard solution to complex country-specific problems related to capacity; UNDP and UNFPA support for capacity development is therefore tailored to the particular needs and contexts of each country, its population and institutions. Initiatives are often delivered in partnership with other United Nations organizations, bilateral partners, civil society and private-sector partners, building on benefits from each other's comparative advantages. Capacity development initiatives aim to support: institutional reform; leadership vision along with larger stakeholder engagement and support for that vision; access to and use of knowledge and learning; and the public interface and accountability mechanisms that ensure the ability of institutions to change.

11. Measuring results is essential to capacity development. To that end, UNDP, UNFPA and its partners have developed a framework to measure capacity results that focuses on two levels: outcomes (as measured by change in the ability to perform, sustain that performance over time and manage change); and outputs (products produced or services provided that result from investment in institutional arrangements, leadership, knowledge and accountability). This framework helps UNDP and UNFPA to capture and communicate the results of capacity development efforts, making it easier to measure the impact and relevance of investment.

Global and national Millennium Development Goals initiatives

12. A Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework was developed in 2010. It is intended to invigorate collective United Nations responses to specific Millennium Development Goals on which performance has been lagging in individual country situations. The timing of this approach is key, since a large number of UNDP and UNFPA offices, together with other parts of the United Nations system, are embarking on new United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) and country programming cycles.

13. UNDP was able to take concrete steps to assist the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals and work with stakeholders at the global, regional, country and subnational levels to ensure a comprehensive, yet coherent set of evidence-based inputs that will inform plans to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals over the remaining years to 2015. To support more effective planning based on the Millennium Development Goals, UNDP submitted at the 2010 Millennium Development Goals Plenary Meeting a report synthesizing the national Millennium Development Goals reports along with an international assessment that considers which actions are needed to achieve the Goals by 2015. UNDP helped to develop assessment and costing methodologies, which were key to integrating the Goals into national planning processes. El Salvador, for example, costed its "Education Plan 2021", identifying the necessary national and political commitments that it required. Together with UNDP, UNICEF and the World Food Programme (WFP), El Salvador strengthened school-feeding programmes and policies to raise academic success rates.

14. UNDP and UNFPA have worked with national Governments to support lead institutions that are scaling up their capacities to achieve the Millennium Development Goals. In Sierra Leone a long-term investment by UNDP to strengthen the public procurement system resulted in the passing of procurement legislation and the establishment of public procurement institutions, making procurement

compliance and performance monitoring regular practices, despite changes in national leadership.

The Millennium Development Goals trust fund mechanism

15. Another example of the enhancement of support to develop inter-agency capacity was very evident through the millennium trust fund. Some examples of focused inter-agency capacity development results are:

(a) In Namibia, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF support resulted in members of Parliament holding respective ministries accountable for poor maternal health, low health-budget allocations, inadequate medical supplies to hospitals and gender-based violence;

(b) In China, UNFPA, UNDP and United Nations partners have worked together in culture and development, youth, employment and migration. UNFPA mobilized additional funds to strengthen community-based interventions in ethnic minority villages, the members of which matched these funds with their own contributions. In the employment programme, the capacity of civil servants and civil society members raised migrant awareness and their need for social inclusion;

(c) In Guinea-Bissau, UNDP, UNFPA and partners are working with ministries, the military and police to strengthen national capacity to effectively respond to gender-based violence, including a 16-day campaign focusing on violence against women;

(d) In Mauritania, UNDP, UNFPA and partner agencies are supporting the development of women leaders' capacity for conflict prevention at the provincial level and are undertaking a study on social prejudices, discrimination and citizenship. The findings of this study will be used to develop educational tools;

(e) In Timor-Leste, UNDP and UNFPA support resulted in the national approval and promulgation of a law against domestic violence. National human trafficking awareness-raising has resulted in the number of case referrals increasing from 0 to 25 in a six-month period.

National strategies and policies

16. UNDP and UNFPA work with Governments in building partnerships at both national and local levels. UNFPA country offices have reported that an increased number of national development plans, including poverty reduction strategies, incorporate emerging population issues such as urbanization, the environment, ageing and internal and cross-border migration. The emergence of new global economies offers further opportunities for South-South collaboration and triangular cooperation in capacity development given identified weak monitoring systems, the lack of buy-in and inadequate allocation of resources (both human and financial) for sexual and reproductive health. Together these add to capacity challenges.

17. UNFPA support has resulted in the strengthened capacity of national statistics institutes to plan and implement the 2010 round of population and housing censuses, and to analyse and disseminate census and survey data. Of the total number of countries that planned for the 2010 round of censuses, 49 per cent have completed their work and 51 per cent are scheduled to conduct a national census by 2014. UNFPA has also sought to integrate South-South cooperation into these efforts,

with, for example, Chief Technical Advisers from the Office of the Indian Registrar General advising the Governments of Nigeria, the Sudan, Afghanistan and Timor-Leste.

18. UNFPA and UNDP together focused efforts on developing capacity to address HIV/AIDS. In Eastern Europe, the UNFPA-supported Y-PEER programme has become an international youth network covering Eastern Europe, the Arab States, Latin America, Africa and Asia, connecting more than 7,000 young peer educators with information, training, support and a wide range of electronic resources. UNFPA has also provided technical and financial support to the Global Youth Coalition on HIV/AIDS to build its capacity as the leading international network of youth leaders. The Coalition currently comprises more than 4,000 young leaders and adult allies from more than 150 countries.

19. The UNFPA Global Programme on Reproductive Health Commodity Security worked to bolster national procurement and logistics capacities for contraceptives, condoms and essential medicines, including in humanitarian settings. The capacity development component of the Global Programme was scaled up in 2010 with an increasing number of national and local staff trained in procurement and logistics management. In the area of maternal health, the work of UNFPA resulted in enhanced capacities of Governments to carry out evidence-based programming, including programming related to family planning, as well as the establishment of professional associations of midwives to develop advocacy and management capacities.

20. Of key importance to UNDP and partners is the strengthening of the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). This Programme was one of the specific outcomes of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change held in Copenhagen. Since the effects of climate change are both exacerbating and being accelerated by biodiversity loss and ecosystem degradation, protected areas are widely recognized as a cornerstone of biodiversity management and sustainable development. In the period 2005 to 2010, focused implementation interventions that strengthen policies, institutions and staff capacities, while leveraging the necessary financing, have resulted in the development of 128 newly protected areas covering 11.1 million hectares. An additional 197 new protected areas, covering 4.2 million hectares, are anticipated.

21. Other examples may be found in Manila, for example, where efforts to increase access to safe drinking water were supported by UNDP through a pro-poor public-private community partnership between the private water utility, informal small-scale water service providers and local authorities and communities. As a result, affordable and sustainable access to water increased more than 400 per cent in one year. This partnership model is being scaled-up in other poor peri-urban areas of metropolitan Manila, and regulatory adjustments are being made to allow replication in other service sectors. UNFPA worked closely with parliamentary forums on population issues in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and Central Asia. Global conferences of parliamentarians were held to advance South-South as well as North-South dialogue. UNFPA also supported cooperation with regional institutions and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

22. Lessons drawn from the complex and vast UNDP and UNFPA capacity development support efforts in 2010 point to the need for inclusive stakeholder

participation, deep-rooted political will, country-specific solutions, relevant monitoring mechanisms, leveraging of constituencies, and the provision of innovative instruments, tools and expertise. These lessons will further the relevance of future endeavours.

South-South cooperation

23. The purpose of South-South cooperation activities supported by UNDP and UNFPA country offices is to facilitate an exchange of knowledge, formulate regional and subregional projects, develop human resources and institutions, and promote policy dialogue. These were accomplished in sectoral programmes in governance, population, environment and energy, gender, disaster prevention, crisis management and public administration.

24. UNFPA concluded the revision of its 1997 South-South cooperation strategy, which incorporates findings from a survey and analysis of UNFPA global, regional and country programmes, a global consultation with national, regional and global partners, and developments in South-South cooperation scanning. The revised strategy is based on the structural and technical assistance reorganization of UNFPA and experience with United Nations reform initiatives.

25. A major event for UNDP and UNFPA during the reporting period was the convening of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation. The outcome document expressed the need to reinvigorate the United Nations development system in supporting South-South and triangular cooperation. While welcoming initiatives taken by some United Nations agencies to establish new units and work programmes to support South-South cooperation, Member States also called upon United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to coordinate their operational activities in support of South-South cooperation, enhance the capacities of developing countries for carrying out development cooperation programmes and establish and strengthen South-South centres of excellence.

26. In response to this demand, UNFPA and UNDP have been playing a primary role in South-South cooperation as providers of technical and strategic guidance, as brokers and facilitators and as funders. According to an internal UNFPA survey, more than 200 South-South initiatives supported by UNFPA were under way in January-April 2010, particularly in the areas of fistula repair, census management, population surveys, delivery of reproductive health services, HIV infection among women, gender-based violence, use of database software, training and raising awareness of population and development issues, female genital mutilation/cutting, and gender mainstreaming. Fifteen per cent of these initiatives were supported at the global level, while the others were at regional and country levels.

27. The Special Unit for South-South Cooperation hosted its third Global South-South Development Expo in 2009, designed to bring together developing countries and donors, United Nations organizations, the private sector and civil society organizations to share southern development solutions in climate change and the environment, food security, global health and HIV/AIDS. The Special Unit also refined the South-South Global Assets and Technology Exchange System and the Global South-South Development Academy.

28. UNFPA enhanced its participation in relevant global and regional coordination mechanisms and is currently an active participant on the Task Team on South-South Cooperation that was launched in September 2009. The Task Team brings together partner countries (especially middle-income countries), donors, civil society, academia, regional and multilateral agencies under a common objective of mapping, documenting, analysing and discussing evidence of the synergies between the principles of aid effectiveness and the practice of South-South cooperation. UNFPA is also working with other United Nations Development Group organizations to ensure that this cooperation is integrated into collaborative United Nations efforts. UNDP has now successfully developed a global network of aid effectiveness practitioners which is fully supporting South-South cooperation globally.

Gender equality and women's empowerment

29. UNDP and UNFPA are advancing gender equality and women's empowerment in each of their thematic areas and in line with priorities of their respective strategic plans.

Towards the achievement of poverty reduction

30. In 2009 more than 69 UNDP country offices supported national partners' efforts to integrate gender equality into national development policies and budget frameworks. UNDP developed tools and guidance in new areas of work such as taxation, unpaid care work and employment guarantee schemes. The tools and guidance are being used to support advocacy and capacity-building for integrating gender issues into national plans and policies. As part of advocacy for linking maternal mortality, gender equality and human rights, UNFPA submitted a comprehensive report on maternal mortality and morbidity to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and participated in a high-level panel on the same topic which was organized by the Human Rights Council during its fourteenth session.

31. UNDP has launched a global capacity development and policy advisory services programme to accelerate achievement of the Millennium Development Goals by making economic policies and poverty reduction strategies more equitable. In Egypt, for example, small businesses have been encouraged to support women's legal empowerment and labour rights and improve recognition of women's economic contributions. With support from UNDP and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) (now UN Women), seven countries in Latin America are part of a community of practice for South-South cooperation and the implementation of the Gender Equality Seal, a voluntary certification process which verifies that private-sector companies promote gender equality in the workplace.

32. UNFPA was a sponsor of the Women Deliver Conference, a gathering of experts from around the world on maternal and reproductive health, which was held in June 2010 with the aim of promoting investment in women and reducing maternal deaths. In 2010, UNFPA organized two expert meetings on maternal mortality and human rights to raise awareness of the human rights challenges with treaty bodies and regional human rights mechanisms. Furthermore, UNFPA is adopting a corporate strategy on indigenous peoples, which attributes particular importance to

the rights of indigenous women to empowerment, preservation of their traditions associated with childbirth and elimination of gender-based violence.

Gender-based violence

33. UNFPA and UNDP continue to address violence against women by supporting the five outcomes of the campaign of the Secretary-General Unite to End Violence against Women. Nearly one third of all UNDP programme countries have ongoing initiatives on gender-based violence. These include joint programmes on gender-based violence legislation and work with legal and judicial institutions aimed at increasing the security of women and adjudicating cases in a gender-sensitive manner. As reported by UNFPA country offices, there has been a large increase in pre- and in-service training for health-service providers that includes gender-based violence components. Anti-violence programmes for the police forces in Kyrgyzstan, Jordan and Turkey were successfully implemented using South-South cooperation approaches including police force exchanges. UNFPA also supported the development of national plans and systems that monitor violence against women.

34. With UNDP support, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela mounted a successful campaign on gender-based violence which resulted in the development of an organic law on women's rights to a life free from violence and to the establishment of a network of special courts to address gender-based violence. In 2010 UNFPA supported the development of United Nations regional strategies against gender-based violence in both the Latin America and Caribbean and the Africa regions. The UNFPA-UNICEF joint programme on female genital mutilation and cutting aims to reinforce the efforts of national institutions, development partners and civil society organizations to accelerate the abandonment of this practice in 12 countries. The joint programme includes grass-roots community education programmes and social mobilization campaigns. These have generated a socio-cultural dynamic which promotes the rejection of this harmful practice. As a result, communities in Senegal, the Gambia, Guinea, Somalia and the Sudan have seen large-scale abandonment of female genital mutilation and cutting. Ethiopia has reported that 4,000 girls in the Afar region have not undertaken this procedure, and in Egypt more than 9,000 families of girls at risk have abandoned the practice.

35. UNDP has focused on strengthening women's legal rights and access to justice while promoting land, property and inheritance rights through informal or customary systems of justice. In the period 2009-2010, 59 legislative assemblies, electoral commissions, national parliaments and political parties were supported by UNDP to strengthen women's political participation. In Burundi, this has resulted in the extension of a national to community quota system which has increased women's participation, from 12 per cent in 2005 to 34 per cent of nearly 2,000 newly elected communal councillors. Notably, after two years of piloting in 17 countries, UNDP adopted the Gender Marker, which will enable all partners to better assess the gender equality impact of programme resource allocations and expenditures and help address the deficits in financing for gender equality.

HIV/AIDS

36. As the lead United Nations organization for the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) on gender and HIV, UNDP continued to work

with the United Nations family towards integration of gender issues into national HIV/AIDS plans and policies. As a result, hundreds of women caregivers in six African countries quantified the monetary value of their labour, time and resource contributions to mitigate the effects of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in their communities and have gained formal inclusion in national level policymaking in Kenya. To engage men and boys in achieving gender equality and reducing the spread and impact of HIV and AIDS, UNFPA has been working with civil society partners, namely the MenEngage Alliance, as well as United Nations joint teams on AIDS, to advance global advocacy, collect best practices and programmatic models, convene consultations to develop and operationalize country plans, and establish regional networks. As part of inter-religious knowledge management initiatives, UNFPA hosted a consultation in June 2010 which allowed participants from academia and faith-based organizations to assess the contributions of women and men of faith to development issues. In addition to managing grants in complex and high-risk environments, UNDP has worked with national stakeholders and United Nations partners to achieve notable performance ratings and health outcomes. From 2003 to 2008, UNDP was a principal recipient of funds from the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria to support programmes in 34 countries. UNDP thereby contributed to providing community outreach for HIV, tuberculosis and malaria prevention to more than 20 million people. Ten countries have now transitioned to become direct Global Fund recipients. UNFPA provided practical guidance to strengthen policy and programming to implement the first two prongs of primary prevention of HIV among girls and women, and prevention of unintended pregnancies among women living with HIV.

Crisis prevention and recovery

37. UNDP has been designated the global lead for crisis prevention and recovery. In collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations of the Secretariat and OHCHR, UNDP is responsible for developing and establishing the team of experts mandated under paragraph 8 of Security Council resolution 1888 (2009) on sexual violence and armed conflict. At the national level, UNDP is helping countries build legal and judicial capacities that include a strong focus on women's security and access to justice.

38. At the global level, as a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Women, Peace and Security, UNDP contributed to the development of a set of global indicators to track implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). In support of that resolution, UNFPA contributed to global events in commemoration of its tenth anniversary, assisted in the launch of an online platform for the Asia and Pacific region and worked on the development of global indicators for monitoring implementation of the resolution. In Somalia, UNDP supported a rule of law programme which ensured that an estimated 10 per cent of police academy graduates were women. Also established was the first association of women lawyers, which provides legal assistance to victims of rape and domestic violence. In the Sudan, new economic opportunities for women former combatants were coupled with counselling. In the Sudan, UNFPA is providing technical, financial and equipment support to the federal Government for five northern states. In Darfur, UNFPA worked with the Ministry of Health to train almost 400 health-care providers (medical doctors, health assistants, nurses and midwives) in clinical management of rape. Provided with kits for medical treatment of rape, the providers

work in hospitals and in clinics run by the State and by non-governmental organizations throughout Darfur.

Environment and sustainable development

39. As a partner in the Global Gender and Climate Alliance, UNDP and partners built the capacity of more than 500 government and civil society representatives from all regions to address the gender dimensions of climate change within global, regional and national policy processes. Together with global advocacy efforts, these initiatives led to the introduction of gender equality principles into the main negotiating text of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. UNDP is also supporting efforts by countries to integrate gender equality into their climate change policies and international finance mechanisms.

UN Women

40. As members of a United Nations inter-agency group, UNDP, UNFPA and UNICEF actively supported the establishment of the new gender entity, UN Women. UNDP and UNFPA will continue to support the smooth transition from four separate United Nations entities into the one entity, UN Women. This consolidation should enhance, coordinate and focus efforts by the entire system to empower women and achieve gender equality.

Transition from relief to development

41. Both UNFPA and UNDP recognize the need to strengthen as soon as possible the links between humanitarian responses and early recovery efforts. UNFPA and UNDP are also working very closely with OHCHR to advocate for the integration of human rights considerations into humanitarian responses. Stronger institutional linkages are needed between human rights mechanisms and humanitarian actors, to meet the needs of the most vulnerable groups in crisis situations and during recovery and reconstruction.

42. Recognizing that the distinction between humanitarian assistance and development is often artificial in the case of long-standing emergencies, UNFPA and UNDP support goes beyond humanitarian response to address chronic vulnerability, linking emergency action and its financing with transition and development programmes. UNDP helped lead post-disaster needs assessments in Haiti and the Republic of Moldova and supported other joint post-disaster assessments in Chile and Pakistan. Guidelines for these assessments were refined in close collaboration with United Nations organizations, the World Bank and the European Commission. The post-conflict needs assessment guidelines and toolkit were completed and capacity development exercises were conducted for a group of highly experienced practitioners from different organizations, including from the United Nations, the European Union and the World Bank. In partnership with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat, following the 2010 Haiti earthquake, UNFPA technical advisers and trained teams of university students led rapid data collection efforts in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. The database thus created served as a key source of information for the post-disaster needs assessment in Haiti. The contribution of UNFPA to the post-disaster needs assessments from a gender perspective (in collaboration with UNDP and the Gender Standby Capacity initiative) has allowed for better information-sharing on the

gender concerns following the Haiti and Pakistan disasters this past year. UNFPA and other partners in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee for post-disaster humanitarian assistance have also contributed to the development of the Standing Committee gender e-learning tool, which was successfully launched in 2010. This tool assists both United Nations and non-United Nations actors in humanitarian programming, helping to recognize a variety of needs and provide equal opportunities for affected populations.

43. Recent earthquakes and floods in Haiti, Chile, China and Pakistan have provided stark reminders of the critical importance of disaster risk reduction. Both UNDP and UNFPA recognize that economic growth and poverty alleviation are not sustainable or fully effective without integrating vulnerability and risk management into long-term national development programmes. Both organizations also recognize the key role modern communications and other technologies play in efforts to reach out to affected populations and address their needs. Following the January 2010 Haiti earthquake, UNFPA led coordination efforts among development partners to address gender-based violence. With funding from the United Nations Foundation, UNFPA installed 200 solar lamps, which were distributed in more than 20 camps, to ensure that approximately 40,000 women and young girls had safe access to camp facilities.

44. In 2010, UNDP supported national partners both in formulating and in implementing comprehensive disaster risk reduction programmes, and addressed all five Hyogo Framework for Action priorities. In Nepal, for example, the Government is finalizing its national disaster risk management strategy and institutional and legislative arrangements for disaster risk reduction. In Haiti, an initial assessment of the disaster risk reduction capacity needs resulted in the formulation of a preparedness programme for the subsequent cyclone season. In Armenia, Ecuador, Indonesia and Mozambique, comprehensive climate risk assessments and climate risk sectoral management response assessments will form the basis of national climate risk management programmes. Fifteen countries, assisted by UNDP, developed and applied programmes to prevent and manage violence or violent conflict. The National Peace Council of Ghana helped bring about a cessation of violence in the chieftaincy-related dispute in Bawku. In Kenya, the UNDP-assisted Uwiano Platform for Peace conducted a successful violence prevention effort during the constitutional referendum, successfully addressing more than 100 instances of potentially violent tension.

45. In response to national requests, UNDP, through dialogue and inclusive consensus-building, supported the resolution of specific conflicts over land, natural resources and governance-reform issues in 10 countries in 2010. Credible platforms for dialogue among relevant stakeholders — political parties, government and civil society — were established and will continue into 2011. In Nigeria, a UNDP-assisted women's cooperative has helped parties in the Agila local government area of Benue state to reach a peace settlement and develop an implementation plan.

46. In 2010, national and international partners enhanced women's security and access to justice by setting up formal and informal legal aid mechanisms for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Somalia. In Sierra Leone, more than 500 survivors to date have received legal support services, with 26 convictions obtained. UNDP rendered general legal aid services to 47 communities in 10 districts with 6,679 direct beneficiaries and 917 cases referred to institutions of

redress. Support for gender perspectives and social inclusion in peace consolidation efforts in Nepal has continued. Nepalese leaders from major political parties have developed a joint platform to build skills and capacities collaboratively. The leadership of these efforts has included women from government and civil society. In Timor-Leste, community-led alternative dispute-resolution related to land and resettlement of internally displaced persons has proved successful. As part of broader United Nations peacebuilding efforts, UNDP launched joint programmes with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to support rule of law and security in Haiti, southern Sudan and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and expanded a similar joint programme in Timor-Leste.

47. The focus on developing capacities in post-conflict settings has been a shared priority of both UNDP and UNFPA. UNDP's capacity development response for peacebuilding, economic recovery and conflict resolution, piloted in northern Uganda, uses a comparative analysis of baseline capacities of local government institutions for conflict prevention, peacebuilding and economic recovery in three northern Ugandan districts. This pilot has now been duplicated in Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Gender profile templates established by UNFPA and UNDP in the early recovery cluster were initially rolled out in Bangladesh and Kenya in 2009 and led to the integration of gender information into national systems for statistics, advocacy for women's NGOs and preparation of national profiles. Building consensus among national and international actors on the usefulness of including women in the recovery dialogue, however, remains a challenge. Working with United Nations system partners, UNDP along with the United Nations Development Group and the Development Operations Coordination Office of UNDP, in addition to others, helped launch an initiative to provide Resident Coordinator offices with additional recovery capacity for improved United Nations coherence in the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Pakistan and Nepal.

IV. Improved functioning of the United Nations development system

Coherence, effectiveness and relevance

48. The United Nations Development Group developed an agreed set of strategic priorities and a workplan for 2010-2011 which aim to respond to the triennial comprehensive policy review and the imperative of the United Nations providing strong support for national efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals. The strategic priorities focus and prioritize the efforts of the Group at the global, regional and country levels, to ensure that the United Nations system provides transformational support to Governments and other national partners. They foresee the Group having an impact at the policy, sector and programme levels in all countries, and place particular emphasis on supporting national efforts to accelerate the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and internationally agreed development goals, especially in those countries that are furthest behind. They focus on maximizing operational and administrative efficiency by harmonizing business practices and making effective use of common services. The Group is supporting "Delivering as one" pilot countries until the independent evaluation is completed and is

encouraging full harmonization of business practices to develop models for global replication. The Group is also supporting countries that choose to pursue a high-coherence approach.

49. UNFPA and UNDP have been working as part of the broader effort within the United Nations Development Group to support UNDAF roll-out countries in 2010, calling for UNDAFs of greater quality to serve as the strategic programming tool for alignment of and responsiveness to national priorities. The agencies are also working as part of the United Nations Development Group to provide support and guidance to those countries that are voluntarily seeking to strengthen coherence. Through the Millennium Development Goals Acceleration Framework, which in 2010 was piloted in 10 countries, UNDP is working to ensure increased support to the achievement of Goals, including through enhanced support for high quality UNDAFs. UNDP has therefore realigned its programming structures and guidance to address new voluntary instruments, such as an action plan to operationalize UNDAFs and the common budgetary framework, to ensure that there is a comprehensive and results-based projection of financial resource requirements and identification of funding gaps for the entire programme period. UNDP and UNFPA have worked together to respond to the call of the General Assembly for the submission by national Governments, on a voluntary basis, of a common country programme document, in an effort to further enhance country-level coherence.

50. In 2010, seven out of the eight "Delivering as one" pilot programme countries undertook a country-led evaluation, the results of which were shared at the High-level Tripartite Conference on Delivering as One in Hanoi in June 2010. The results highlighted that while no one size fits all, key findings point to increased alignment with national priorities, increased national ownership and leadership, greater access by national Governments to the United Nations development system's range of expertise, mandates and resources, reduced fragmentation and duplication, and increased accountability for results. Importantly, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution 64/289 on system-wide coherence, necessary actions are being taken to complete the independent evaluation of the "Delivering as One" experience, which is expected to be completed by mid-2011.

51. UNDP and UNFPA will continue to support the implementation of the strategic priorities of the United Nations Development Group, both through its network on programming issues and through the regional structures of the Group. Salient to these efforts is the development of overall guidance on future common country programme documents, taking into account the experience of the United Republic of Tanzania. UNDP and UNFPA will provide support to United Nations country teams in countries where national Governments have requested increased efficiencies, effectiveness and coherence, as envisaged by the triennial comprehensive policy review, including through the alignment of the United Nations and the government fiscal cycles, as in the United Republic of Tanzania.

52. UNFPA co-chaired with UNICEF the United Nations Development Group results-based management task team, which developed the prototype for UNDAF results-reporting to host countries. Both organizations are contributing to a handbook by the Group on results-based management. This handbook aims to strengthen harmonization of results-based management approaches within the United Nations development system. UNFPA also chaired the Working Group on Country Office Business Operations of the Group and was a chair of its Advisory

Group in 2010. In 2010-2011, the Development Group will review the progress in the implementation of the management and accountability system of the United Nations development and resident coordinator system, including of the "functional firewall" for the resident coordinator system. The review will focus on the accountability of the results.

Regional dimensions

53. The recent establishment of UNFPA regional offices has increased the effectiveness of field operations and provided greater opportunities for collaboration among United Nations and other development partners, national Governments, regional organizations and national, regional and global NGOs. It has also facilitated South-South cooperation through reliance on expertise at local centres of excellence. UNDP has posted deputy regional directors in regional service centres to ensure similar impact. These regional centres provide policy, technical, management and coordination support, particularly with regard to global priorities of the United Nations Development Group such as accelerating the achievement of Millennium Development Goals at the country level, realizing a greater shift towards upstream policy support and promoting South-South cooperation. In the Arab States region for example, these priorities include strategic positioning in middle-income countries, the nexus of climate change and food security and addressing the interrelated issues of youth, gender and decent work.

54. UNFPA and UNDP are contributing to the improved functioning of the United Nations development system through their participation in regional United Nations development groups, chaired by UNDP. The overarching purpose of the regional groups is to provide strategic leadership. As part of their revised functions, the regional groups assess the performance of the resident coordinators and other members of the United Nations country teams, and provide close supervision and quality assurance of the joint programming processes of the United Nations organizations at the country level, particularly the common country assessment/UNDAF processes. Priorities in 2010 have included providing strategic guidance to countries in crisis, preparation of a comprehensive guidance document on social protection, providing guidance on addressing climate change as part of the common country assessment/UNDAF processes, joint support for achieving the Millennium Development Goals and the development of United Nations system-wide approaches to engagement with middle-income countries.

55. A key result in 2010, undertaken by the regional United Nations development groups in partnership with the Regional Coordination Mechanisms, has been the production of joint regional Millennium Development Goal reports. These were produced in time for the July 2010 annual ministerial review by the Economic and Social Council and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals in September 2010. Based on country-specific information and inputs from regional consultations, the findings of those reports helped develop joint strategies to bridge development gaps. For instance, a joint initiative for reducing maternal mortality was launched in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in September 2010. In the Arab region, the regional United Nations development group has, in partnership with the Regional Coordination Mechanism, agreed to a joint two-year workplan. This plan includes the regional Millennium Development Goal reports and a focus on the common priorities of youth, food security and climate change.

56. In the Pacific subregion, UNDP and UNFPA, in partnership with UNICEF, have established a network of joint presence offices in eight Pacific small island developing States. These joint presence offices not only serve as a gateway to expertise and development assistance provided by the United Nations system, but also facilitate South-South cooperation and knowledge-sharing among the small island developing States on the most urgent development needs. The establishment of the joint presence offices encourages joint programming by United Nations organizations and a reduction in transaction costs for national Governments. UNDP has linked South-South cooperation between Pacific and Caribbean small island developing States in climate change adaptation and disaster risk management with joint activities of the Bureau for Development Policy and the Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery. This has resulted in a stronger country focus for the United Nations system activities in support of development needs of Pacific small island developing States. In 2010, in Vanuatu, the regional United Nations development group for Asia and the Pacific held its first field meeting in the Pacific subregion. This meeting contributed to stronger linkages between regional and country-level activities of the United Nations system and also demonstrated the group's strong commitment to addressing development priorities of the Pacific small island developing States.

Transaction costs and efficiency

57. Through the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, UNDP and UNFPA continued supporting the harmonization of business practices in a number of areas:

(a) **Procurement**. The High-level Committee commenced the "Procurement process and practice harmonization in support of field operations" and is working to further develop the guidelines on harmonized procurement at the country level. These guidelines were approved by the United Nations Development Group in late 2009;

(b) **Finance and budget**. The High-level Committee approved a framework for reporting between organizations based on harmonized expense codes and an agreed reporting format. This framework developed by the Chief Executives Board Finance and Budget Network builds on a similar multi-donor trust fund reporting system. The Network also started work on the establishment of common treasury services and on the creation of a comprehensive United Nations system-wide financial database which will integrate existing agency databases, eliminate data collection overlaps and more effectively help meet United Nations system-wide financial reporting requirements. In October 2010, the United Nations Development Group approved the new guidance note on "one budgetary framework", which is expected to help United Nations organizations to enhance the mobilization and management of resources in support of UNDAF objectives. The Group also approved the common guidelines on the establishment of multi-donor trust funds and the guidance on United Nations participation in pooled funds for sector budget support;

(c) **Information and communications technology (ICT)**. United Nations organizations continued to implement the "United Nations common directory", the solution developed under the lead of UNDP to provide secure, global access to basic

contact information of United Nations offices and staff. In 2010, there were 10 organizations participating in the directory. At the beginning of 2010, the United Nations Development Group endorsed new guidance for "Delivering as one in ICT" at the country level. These guidelines include recommendations for assessing, planning and implementing common ICT infrastructure projects at the country level, and are being successfully used by United Nations country teams. The Information and Communication Technology Network of the High-level Committee on Management commenced work on two harmonization projects: the ICT costing project, aimed at the development of a common mechanism to calculate the cost of ICT components of communications, technical support and infrastructure; and the data communications project, which is expected to focus on country-level wide area network connectivity, common procurement of global network services, and standard practices and protocols.

58. As part of the effort to support United Nations coherence in the field, a joint high-level mission of the United Nations Development Group and the High-level Committee on Management took place from March to July 2010 in order to identify critical areas where further harmonization of business practices is essential to improve the operational efficiency of the United Nations system on the ground. The mission, which visited Albania, Malawi, Mozambique and Viet Nam, was launched by the Chairs of the Development Group and the High-level Committee. The implementation plan of the recommendations of the mission was approved at the joint meeting of the Development Group and High-level Committee in September 2010.

59. The difficulties involved in harmonizing rules, regulations and policies of United Nations entities make it challenging to work in a fully joint fashion. That said, there remains a strong incentive to develop innovative solutions as has been done in Honduras and Ecuador, where UNFPA, UNDP and other United Nations partner organizations jointly developed a methodology for targeted areas of intervention, such as in selected municipalities as part of the programmes financed under the Millennium Development Goals campaign. In Lebanon, UNFPA and UNDP are working together on a conflict prevention programme financed as part of the Millennium Development Goals effort. A joint office has been established in Tripoli, along with a joint budget, by which costs of coordination, monitoring and evaluation, communication and advocacy activities will be shared.

60. Within the broader United Nations effort to harmonize policies, procedures and business practices, UNDP and UNFPA are continuously working to improve their effectiveness and efficiency and to reduce transaction costs. In 2009, UNFPA began to redesign selected business practices and streamline and simplify existing planning, monitoring and reporting instruments for country offices. Given the increasing volume and complexity of transactions, as well as the limited capacities of country offices, these initiatives are expected to ease transaction processing and improve overall efficiency of UNFPA operations. To minimize overall transaction costs, UNFPA and UNDP continue to seek to identify common services that might be provided jointly with other United Nations organizations, both at country offices and headquarters. Finally, UNFPA chaired the United Nations Development Group exercise on definition, identification and measurement of transaction costs in the context of "Delivering as one" pilot programme countries.

Country-level capacity of the United Nations development system

61. The Human Resources Network of the High-level Committee on Management launched a comparative review of the policies and practices of United Nations organizations regarding contractual arrangements for personnel on staff and non-staff contracts, recruitment, performance appraisal and job grading and classification. The objective of the analysis is to develop specific options for inter-agency harmonization in these areas, thus responding to the concerns raised by the "Delivering as one" pilot programme countries, "self-starters" and other United Nations country teams exploring ways to ensure greater United Nations coherence. The final recommendations of the Human Resources Network will be considered by the High-level Committee in early 2011. The Committee has been focusing on harmonization of benefits, entitlements and insurance related to service-incurred injury, illness, death and disability for international staff, national and locally recruited staff, and international and locally recruited non-staff personnel. In September 2010, the Committee approved a set of initial recommendations on improving such benefits and entitlements.

62. To ensure effective programme delivery, UNDP and UNFPA have been continuing their efforts to secure timely and competency-based recruitment. To this end, the UNFPA selection process was streamlined through the introduction of a recruiter console and adoption of measures to address avoidable delays. UNFPA integrated its various regional rosters to enhance the availability of quality information on vetted consultants.

63. To advance staff capacity, UNFPA is redesigning its staff induction and orientation programme and developing a new framework for its corporate learning programmes with linkages to its competency framework. The emphasis is on developing results-based programme planning and management skills as well as effective management and leadership profiles. A learning catalogue was issued to all staff and a new approach was devised to better guide and assist staff in the development of learning plans. Much importance is also attributed to organizing communities of practice. Finally, UNDP and UNFPA have been advocating for recognition of the resident coordinator position as a possible component of career paths for their staff. UNDP and UNFPA are active members in various United Nations Development Group and inter-agency forums on resident coordinator talent management.

64. UNDP and UNFPA are working to increase the substantive and operational knowledge and capacities of their country offices to engage in UNDAF preparations and implementation. The lessons from the Millennium Development Goals Achievement Fund reveal that resourcing the capacity of the offices of United Nations resident coordinators should not be underestimated, especially when several joint programmes are being implemented and common results monitoring and reporting are being enhanced. The Millennium Development Goals financed resident coordinator office support in 14 countries, and nine focus countries are using additional funds to finance monitoring and evaluation, communications and advocacy support in resident coordinator offices. Many joint programmes have dedicated budgetary resources towards ensuring the capacity of the resident coordinator office to deliver more rigorously on its results monitoring, reporting and evaluation responsibilities.

Evaluation of operational activities for development

65. During the reporting period 2009-2010, the UNDP Evaluation Office emphasized increased coverage and enhanced methodological rigour of independent evaluations. The number of UNDP assessments of development results increased from four in 2007 to 14 in 2009. Between 2009 and 2010, such assessments were conducted in Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Chile, China, Georgia, Guyana, Indonesia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Maldives, Peru, Seychelles, Turkey, Uganda and Zambia. In 2010, UNFPA also embarked on improving its evaluation function, in line with its new evaluation policy, which was approved in June 2009. Evaluation is a top organizational priority, and UNFPA has taken steps towards increasing the coverage of evaluations, enhancing their quality and expanding use of their findings. UNFPA has encouraged joint country-programme evaluations, especially with national and United Nations partners, and has set aside funds to support evaluation capacity for countries that are rolling out UNDAFs.

66. UNDP places great importance on collaborating with national Governments and using national expertise when conducting assessments of development results. The UNDP Evaluation Office, in cooperation with the Moroccan Observatoire nationale pour le développement humain, organized an International Conference on National Evaluation Capacity in order to investigate challenges confronting countries on evaluation. The Conference outcome document prepared the ground for longer-term initiatives to strengthen national capacities for public policy evaluation through South-South cooperation.

67. UNFPA has also focused on strengthening the evaluation function at country and regional levels and has recruited additional monitoring and evaluation staff. Of 122 UNFPA country offices, 54 now have monitoring and evaluation officers, and each of the five regional offices has an evaluation adviser. The recently issued evaluation guidelines have been activated through regional capacity development initiatives under a corporate results-based management framework.

68. The UNDP Evaluation Office hosted the United Nations Evaluation Group secretariat, which is managed by the Deputy Director of the Evaluation Office, in his capacity as Executive Coordinator of the Evaluation Group. The Director of the UNDP Evaluation Office was re-elected Chair of the Group, the 2009 programme of which was implemented by seven task forces, in which UNDP participated actively. The Group has been providing quality-assurance advice to all country-led evaluations in "Delivering as one" countries.

V. Follow-up

69. UNDP and UNFPA implement the mandate of the triennial comprehensive policy review included in key areas of the UNDP and UNFPA strategic plans, 2008-2013. UNDP and UNFPA place great emphasis on national ownership and national capacity development while monitoring support to capacity development through a set of outputs in their respective strategic plans and indicators in their management and development results frameworks. The recommendations contained in General Assembly resolution 62/208 also guide the United Nations family on United Nations reform, which is a priority for UNDP, UNFPA and their sister organizations.

70. In addition to this joint report to the Economic and Social Council, UNFPA and UNDP report annually to the Executive Board on progress achieved on the indicators in their development and management results frameworks. The most recent 2010 reports, contained in documents DP/2010/17 and DP/FPA/2010/17 (Part I), provide information on the indicators related to contributions in the key areas of General Assembly resolution 62/208 and can be read in tandem with the present report.

VI. Recommendation

71. The Executive Board may wish to take note of the present report and transmit it to the Economic and Social Council, together with the comments and guidance provided by delegations.